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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin, 'Arafat Reach Agreement on Committees

TA0610115093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1020 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Cairo—live]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has just wrapped up the Hebrew portion of his news conference and here is the gist of his remarks: Following the meeting between the Israeli team, headed by Yitzhaq Rabin, and the Palestinian team, led by Yasir 'Arafat, it was decided to establish four committees. The central and most important committee is the Israeli-Palestinian liasion committee, which will be chaired at the ministerial level. This committee will be headed by an Israeli minister and a Palestinian official of equivalent status. This committee, which in Prime Minister Rabin's words is the most important one, will convene on 13 October, next Wednesday I believe, in Cairo. This is the main committee which will deal, to all intents and purposes, with the entire spectrum of the major issues set out in the document of principles signed between Israel and the Palestinians, under the PLO.

The second committee, which will convene next Wednesday in Tabah, will deal with the Gaza-Jericho First proposal. The prime minister did not mention this at the news conference, but this committee is supposed to be headed by a senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer, probably a major general.

Another two committees will meet. One will consist of a team to deal with the implementation of the interim arrangement and the format of elections in the territories. This committee will meet according to the framework set out in the Madrid Conference and will continue its sessions in Washington. There will also be an economic committee to coordinate economic relations between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous body. The date and level on which this committee will convene will be finalized during the discussions of the bridging committee—which we again point out is the main committee—which will convene at the ministerial level next Wednesday in Cairo.

Several other issues were raised during Rabin's meeting with the PLO team led by Yasir 'Arafat. Israel declared that it intends to raise security problems and economic issues. Other issues that will be discussed are the release of security detainees and prisoners and Israel's policy toward Palestinian fugitives. The prime minister said Israel is aware that the Palestinians are exerting great pressure to have the security forces' manhunt of the fugitives limited if not totally halted. Another issue raised by the prime minister is the issue of Israeli servicemen missing since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub. Israel apparently has information that Palestinian or PLO elements could help in determining the fate of the Israeli servicemen who have been missing in action since this battle in 1982, during the Lebanon war.

Another issue raised by the Palestinians is Israel's easing the entry of Arabs into Jerusalem. Since the Israeli Government decided to impose a closure on the territories, the Palestinians have felt cut off from Jerusalem, their medical, logistic, and administrative support. This Palestinian request will feature strongly on the agenda of next week's talks.

At the end of the Hebrew portion of his news conference, the prime minister said that this constitutes the framework for the start of next week's negotiations, when the bridging committee and the committee that will negotiate the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First proposal will convene. The prime minister said that today's meeting, currently ending in the (Ittihadiyah) Hotel in Cairo, was held at his initiative. He was the one who asked President Mubarak to arrange a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in order to finally move the negotiations with the PLO forward, almost a month after the signing of the agreement in Washington. This is the gist of the prime minister's remarks.

The atmosphere in the Rabin-'Arafat meeting was completely businesslike. Perhaps all the psychological barriers have already been broken, and even if not, everyone here realizes that psychological inhibitions and the bad memories of decades have now become an unacceptable luxury. The two men put their feelings aside in order to promote the issues, which is indeed what they have done. The negotiations will begin next Wednesday.

It is worth noting that today's meeting in Cairo started with a private meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. As far as I know at this stage, one of the major issues discussed by the two men was the promotion of the peace talks with Syria. These are the important things so far.

I was earlier asked whether Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin shook hands. Well, the answer is yes, contrary to what was published by foreign news agencies. The atmosphere is very businesslike here, and neither side can hide behind psychological inhibitions. As the prime minister said himself, the process must now be pushed forward.

Correspondent Reviews 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

TA0610165893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1430 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Studio talk between anchor Menashe Raz and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[Excerpt] [Raz] Can we speak of chemistry between the two leaders, 'Arafat and Rabin?

[Ya'ari] Judging by appearances and partial information, I would say that there was no electricity between them, but neither was there a short circuit. At least twice in the

course of their 90-minute talk, 'Arafat said to Rabin: We are cousins. We Palestinians and you Jews are cousins.

This was a most businesslike meeting, and 'Arafat accepted practically every proposal submitted by Rabin with regard to the modalities [preceding word in English] of future negotiations, including those referring to the rank of participants, venues, and dates. Almost surprisingly, all these issues were finalized without a hitch.

[Raz] I understand that the next task is imbuing the agreement of principles with substance. Do you have any other details of the Rabin-'Arafat meeting?

[Ya'ari] Perhaps a few more points. First of all, 'Arafat reiterated—at the meeting, not at the news conference—the declaration he has only made in writing to date, averring his objection to violence and his desire to call upon residents of the territories to resume normal life.

Rabin and 'Arafat assured each other that they were fully committed not only to the signed document of principles, but also to the minutes [preceding word in English], namely, the proceedings which accompanied the achievement of the document.

With regard to issues raised by the Palestinians—mainly territories' residents accompanying 'Arafat—such as the closure on Jerusalem, detainees, fugitives, and so forth—Rabin practically told them: Everything is open for negotiation, but only within the channels of negotiations on which we agreed today, and not through gestures or sudden demands.

On 10 October, when the PLO Central Council convenes, 'Arafat is expected to convey to Israel the names of those who will head the Palestinian teams. The candidate for the liaison committee is Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], although there is fierce competition between him and 'Arafat's other senior aides, such as Abu-al-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. The most prominent candidate to head the military [as heard] committee is a colonel of theirs named Nasr Yusuf. The economic committee will be probably headed by Abu-al-'Ala'. I assume the Israeli counterparts will be appointed on the basis of the same pattern. Shim'on Peres may head the Israeli team for the liaison committee. [passage omitted]

Rabin Holds News Conference After Meeting 'Arafat

NC0610141193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held talks at the Presidential Palace in Cairo today. Members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations attended the meeting. Earlier, President Husni Mubarak met 'Arafat and Rabin for 20 minutes. Afterward, Rabin held a news conference in which he said:

[Begin recording of Rabin speaking in English with Arabic voiceover] We have concluded the first working meeting between myself and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with delegations from both sides. Egypt proposed the meeting, and we will begin to implement the agreements signed in Washington on 13 September. We are committed to everything we have signed. But it is not enough to sign; we must implement these agreements.

The talks were conducted in a constructive and positive atmosphere. We have decided to form four committees and four negotiating teams. The first committee will be the Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee, which will be formed on the ministerial level by both sides or the equivalent of the ministerial level on the PLO side. That committee will be a leading one and will supervise all the activities.

We have decided to form teams of negotiators so that they may begin translating the Gaza-Jericho agreement into reality. The committee and the working team will meet on 13 October. The [liaison] committee will meet in Cairo, and the working team concerning Gaza-Jericho will meet in Tabah.

We have decided to continue participating in the Washington talks, which are being held within the framework of the Madrid peace conference, along with the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese teams.

The Israeli delegation will discuss with the Palestinian delegation the overall framework of interim self-rule for the Palestinians. This involves such issues as the structure of the council and the elections to it. The [liaison] committee will also discuss forming an economic committee. The liaison committee will decide the level of representation on the [economic] committee at the meeting in Cairo on 13 October.

I think this is a good beginning for the implementation of the declaration of principles and its addenda. I believe this will lead to translating the agreement into reality. This was the objective of the meeting held in Cairo through the hospitality of President Mubarak.

I will not enter details. I am briefly summarizing the most important points of our discussion. We discussed other topics in the economic sphere, taxes, manpower, and electricity. Gaza nowadays gets electricity and water from Israel. People from Gaza come to work in Israel. All these issues should be discussed as part of the economic development process. All other issues will be discussed at length. They cannot be discussed during this two-hour meeting.

I will not enter details. We exchanged views candidly. This meeting was positive and constructive. As I said, and as President 'Arafat said, the meeting was positive and constructive. As I said, and as President 'Arafat said, the meeting aims to implement that to which we are committed. We know there will be differences when it comes to explaining particular things. This is why we are negotiating and will continue to negotiate until we reach

an agreement to implement the clauses of the agreement and appendixes. [end recording]

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin thanked President Mubarak for hosting the meeting in Cairo and for his readiness to host the meetings of the liaison committee and working teams in Cairo and Tabah. Rabin said there is no doubt that Egypt led the Arab world to peace with Israel. Egypt, he said, played an important role in boosting the peace process.

More on News Conference

NC0610175993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Following his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a news conference in which he described the talks as constructive and positive. He said that during the talks a decision was made to form four committees for the Palestinian-Israeli delegations to the negotiations. He said: We have ended the first working meeting between the PLO chairman and me and between our two accompanying delegations. Rabin said: My meeting with Yasir 'Arafat is aimed at starting implementation of the agreement that we signed in Washington on 13 September. He said that it is not enough to sign it, but we must translate this signing through negotiations into reality.

Concerning the four committees they agreed to form from the Palestinian-Israeli delegations, Rabin said that the first committee will meet on the ministerial level and what represents a ministerial level in the PLO. He said that this committee will be the leading committee for all activities.

Rabin stated that the second committee will, through the two delegations, translate the Gaza-Jericho agreement into reality, and he noted that the first and second committees will hold their first meeting on 13 October. The first committee will meet in Tabah and the second in Cairo.

Rabin pointed out that the third committee—the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating committee in Washington, will discuss topics relating to the formation of the self-rule government, the Palestinian council, Palestinian parliament, and elections. As for the fourth economic committee, the level of representation will be defined at the meeting of the first committee, which will hold its first meeting in Cairo on 13 October.

Rabin expressed his belief that this beginning is good for implementing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement and its appendixes in order to turn it into practical channels for implementation. He said that this was the reason for holding this meeting in Cairo under the auspices of President Mubarak. He said that the third committee—the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating committee in Washington—will discuss topics relating to the formation of the Palestinian self-rule government, the Palestinian council, parliament, and elections.

Rabin noted that other topics were discussed with the Palestinian delegation in the economic sphere, electricity—noting that Gaza receives its electricity from Israel—and the issues of Gazans who go to Israel for work. Rabin said that all these issues must be discussed from a perspective of economic development, noting that all other issues will be discussed at length later.

In conclusion, Rabin said: I would like to thank President Mubarak for this meeting in Cairo and for hosting the meetings of the first committee in Cairo and the second committee meeting in Tabah. He said that there is no doubt that Egypt, which is leading the Arab world toward peace with Israel, played an important role in the peace process.

Rabin's Hebrew Remarks Reported

TA0610193993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement in Hebrew at the Cairo news conference following his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat on 6 October; broadcast in progress—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] The meeting between the PLO chairman and myself has ended. It was a meeting which I suggested should be held here under the hospitality of Egyptian President Mubarak, in a bid to translate the agreement signed in Washington and all its addenda to practical terms.

The Government of Israel endorsed a resolution saying that the PLO would be its partner in its quest for an interim arrangement agreement on the basis of the Madrid conference invitation. The meeting between the Palestinian delegation and the Israeli delegation was conducted in a positive spirit.

We reached the following agreements: Four committees will be set up fully in accordance with the agreed-on declaration of principles. The principal committee, the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee, will be headed by ministerial level people. It will convene on 13 October next week in Cairo.

It was agreed that a negotiating team would be established to implement Gaza-Jericho First. This team will convene next Wednesday, 13 October, in Tabah.

It was agreed to set up a team that will continue the negotiations on the establishment of an interim arrangement, on the modalities of elections to a council that will administer the Palestinian self-government. This team will be a part of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington negotiations and belong in the framework of negotiations with the other three Arab partners—Jordan, Syria, and Egypt [as heard].

It was agreed to establish an economic committee whose composition and leaders' rank will be finalized in the liaison committee's 13 October meeting in Cairo.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 6 October also carries a recorded segment of Rabin's remarks in Hebrew at the Cairo news conference: "After the negotiations are launched, we will discuss additional issues, such as security problems, economic problems, problems with prisoners, detainees, and fugitives. We have raised the problem of our servicemen missing since the June 1982 al-Sultan Ya'qub battle, and there will be a dialogue and a flow of information in our direction on that as well.

["Other issues were raised in connection with looser regulations governing the entry of certain people from the territories into Jerusalem, and that matter will be looked into. There were other issues as well.

["I view this meeting as one that establishes the frame within which negotiations will be launched through the main two committees as soon as next week: the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee and the team negotiating the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First."

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Hebrew at 1430 GMT on 6 October also carries a recorded portion of Rabin's Hebrew remarks at the Cairo news conference, which are broadcast in progress: "All the other problems should fall in the frame of negotiations conducted by the negotiating teams and the committees which should seek to attain a sweeping solution. There should be no addressing any one problem without considering the overview."]

'Arafat Holds News Conference in Cairo

NC0610135193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1310 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a news conference in Cairo today in which he discussed his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. 'Arafat said:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] The meeting was important, especially as it was the first between me and Prime Minister Rabin after signing the agreement in Washington. We agreed that the committees will start their work on 13 October, most notably the liaison committee, which will begin its work in Cairo, God willing, on the ministerial level.

As for the Gaza-Jericho committee, it will also start its work on 13 October on a high level, in Tabah, God willing.

We agreed—and this is very important for the unity of the Arab position—to follow up in Washington the basic issues concerning the interim Palestinian self-government authority and its departments. I appointed my brother Faysal al-Husayni and someone from the Israeli side will be appointed to discuss issues connected with Jerusalem.

On the complicated economic issues between us, that meeting will be decided through the liaison committee.

As for the other issues connected with the transfer of authority in the other Palestinian areas, agreement will be reached in Washington and any other issues will be agreed upon, God willing, either in Washington or via the liaison committee.

The meeting was useful and positive. We hope we can easily translate our agreement on paper into action on the ground. On another point relating to the detainees, Rabin promised me they would not be transported and would remain where they are until their issue is discussed along with other issues on the agenda by the ad hoc committees. Again, I thank you and welcome you. [end recording]

'Arafat went on to answer questions on President Mubarak's role in the talks between him and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and on the Palestinian refugees:

[Begin 'Arafat recording again] As usual, Mubarak's role was important, essential, and constructive. He did not interfere in the talks, but during the tripartite meeting demonstrated his good will to facilitate this meeting.

I think if you read the agreement, it is clear. There are two types of refugees. Those from 1967 will be returned during the transitional period. As for the old refugees, of whom I am one, that issue will be discussed in a period not exceeding the beginning of the third year [last eight words in English]. Thank you. [end recording]

Mubarak Confers With 'Arafat After Rabin Meeting

NC0610160493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has met with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat after the talks between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis earlier today.

Al-Husayni Calls Cairo Talks 'Frank,' 'Positive'

NC0610162993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation that participated in the peace talks between Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left Cairo this afternoon. The delegation is comprised of Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the consultative committee in the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks; Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation; Nabil Qissis, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Ahmad al-Tibi.

Before departure, al-Husayni said that the meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin was frank and positive, and agreement was reached on a number of points. Four committees have been formed to implement the agreement and to discuss the release of 11,000 Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails and the return of the deportees.

He said that president 'Arafat had appointed him head of the Palestinian delegation to follow up on the issue of the Palestinians of Jerusalem. This issue, he said, will be discussed by the liaison committee, which will meet with the Israelis in Cairo on 13 October.

'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs for Tunis

NC0610213793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Tunis this evening following a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on the Middle East peace process.

The Palestinian president attended celebrations to commemorate the 6 October war victory.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Returns From UN Meetings

NC0610161993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo from New York this evening. He had led the League's delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings.

He said upon arrival that he had met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session with Arab foreign ministers and discussed with them topics on the session's agenda and the adoption of a unified Arab position toward them.

He said the meetings had provided a chance for discussing the Libyan-Western crisis in light of the flexible Libyan position. [passage omitted]

On the situation in Somalia, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid regretted the recent serious developments in that country. He appealed to all Somali factions to cooperate to achieve a cease-fire and national reconciliation.

He described the role of the United Nations as "constructive" and said it is helping the Somalis solve their problems.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Taking Iranian Fatwa on 'Arafat 'Seriously'

PM0610154093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Precautions Following Iranian Fatwa To Kill Abu-'Ammar]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Arab diplomatic sources in London yesterday told AL-HAYAH that the PLO leadership in Tunis is taking seriously the threats aimed against President Yasir 'Arafat and the leading group which played a role in reaching the declaration of principles agreement between the PLO and Israel.

The sources pointed out that the Palestinian leadership has taken a series of measures in this context, especially after it learned that an Iranian fatwa has been issued to kill Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the negotiating Palestinian delegation.

The sources also revealed that investigations have been conducted with elements from among the guards of some Palestinian figures. It has been reported that these investigations involved 16 to 40 elements. But no tangible results have been reached so far; suspicion centered especially on the links between these elements and extremist organizations.

The sources noted that the focus is currently on two extremist organizations which have links with Iran. It is feared that they may embark on some action designed to assassinate a Palestinian figure. These two organizations are the "Islamic Jihad" and the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command" led by Ahmad Jibril. Jibril threatened to kill Abu-'Ammar after the signing of the agreement.

Islamic Jihad Statement Assails Gaza-Jericho Accord

JN0610194193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] On the anniversary of the heroic al-Shuja'iyah battle, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestinian issued a statement to the sons of our people. It says: Whoever thought he would live to see certain people of this nation agree that their land was no longer theirs and that the houses, whose keys and ownership papers they still keep, are no longer theirs but are the property of usurpers who came from Poland, Siberia, Ethiopia, and from all over the world and have obtained the right to live in them in peace and who walk in streets chanting and voicing their joy about it?

The statement adds: International generosity has suddenly surfaced to reward the plot designers and protectors, who will turn the afflicted strip, as they allege, into a promised paradise and an economic miracle in the new Middle East.

The statement wonders: Where were these people and their billions of dollars while our people suffered from siege, famine, and deprivation, in which the PLO's leadership took part to force our people to accept surrender? The statement says these generous parties have received the price in advance by making the PLO recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist entity. How can we achieve independence and end the occupation at a time when the settlers remain in their settlements and keep

their weapons and when the occupation army enjoys freedom of movement on the strip's roads and takes up positions on the coast, the borders, and the crossing points? This means that the occupation will remain there. What will happen is that the enemy's intelligence men will be replaced by a handful of Palestinians who have agreed to share the occupation its duties.

The statement adds: Put aside the historic and cultural requirements implied in the agreement; put aside Jerusalem, the refugees, and the right to repatriation and to self-determination; put aside the settlement and the changing of realities; and put aside those issues they say have been postponed and consider only the immediate requirements in order to discover the size of the disaster to which these sides are leading our people.

The statement stresses that it is imprisonment, torture, killing, expulsion, and humiliation that awaits our kinfolk at the hands of a group of our people who pledged to the Zionists to preserve their security and complete what these Zionists have failed to do over a quarter of a century, namely, to crush the people. It adds that terrorist Rabin used to scream every day, voicing his hope that Gaza would sink in the sea because he was drowning in its angry waves. But some people came and saved him and drowned Gaza in blood. The signing of the agreement is an end to a whole history, and an era will begin in which the nation will clarify matters and then distinguish enemies from friends.

The statement adds: On the anniversary of the al-Shuja'iyah battle, we stress our rejection of the conspiracy of the self-rule and we also reject any attempt to turn our people into a bridge for the Zionists to cross into the heart of our nation to plunder its wealth. The statement appeals to the honorable sons of our people to reject alliance with the Zionist entity, refuse to be a tool in its hands to ignite civil war, and to support the option of our people, whose 6 million people confront only six failed contractors.

The statement stresses that it is the option of jihad and martyrdom that will work; that it is the road of the soldiers of God, our prophet Muhammad, al-Qassam, al-Husayni, 'Isam Barahimah, and all the other martyrs that will lead to paradise and not to the White House garden; and that preserving and escalating the spirit of the intifadah will be the challenge that will expose falsehood and the defeatists.

Concluding its statement, the Islamic Jihad Movement said: Out of loyalty to the heroes of the al-Shuja'iyah battle and all the martyrs of the intifadah, we pledge that we will not relinquish any inch of our homeland, that we will defend every inch of Jerusalem with our souls and blood, and that the yearning of 4 million refugees for their homeland will turn into anger in our hearts.

Al-Rantisi Comments on 'Arafat, Rabin Meeting

NC0610133193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Commenting on the meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo today, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees [in south Lebanon], noted that the meeting follows the suicide operations by members of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas. The operations, he said, shocked the enemy and prompted it to look for ways out. He added: I believe that in Cairo, Rabin will study ways to confront such operations. I believe they will search for a new way of dealing with Hamas, the main force in the region.

DFLP Approves Plan To Promote Relations With PFLP

JN0610141693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has criticized the Gaza-Jericho agreement, saying it submits to Israeli terms. The DFLP said that the agreement disregards the right to repatriation, self-determination, and to independent statehood. In a statement issued after its central committee's meeting and distributed today, the front urged all nationalist, democratic, and Islamic forces opposed to the agreement to join the national leadership of the intifadah and to create a broad national front in the homeland and in the diaspora to topple this agreement.

The front indicated that the Yasir 'Arafat wing seeks to fabricate a new central council to cover his administrative rule agreement.

Concluding its statement, the front explained that the central committee has unanimously approved the plan to promote relations with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] with a view toward unity.

PFLP Official Resigns as PNC Deputy Speaker

JN0710103193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7-8 Oct 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—A senior member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Taysir Qub'ah, has resigned from his post as deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in protest against the PLO's signing of the autonomy accord and for what he described as "excluding and undermining the PLO's legitimate institutions."

"Qub'ah will be announcing his resignation from Tunis with the opening of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) meetings," a leading PFLP figure told the Jordan Times on Wednesday.

The PCC will meet next Sunday in Tunis to discuss and ratify the PLO's self-rule agreement with Israel. The 107-member PCC acts as a small parliament and the PNC speaker and his deputies issue the invitations for the PCC meetings.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the PNC, had announced his intention to submit his resignation earlier this year when the next PNC meets. Mr. Qub'ah would announce his resignation at the next PNC meeting, to a new speaker who would be elected to replace Shaykh al-Sa'ih.

The PFLP source said that Mr. Qub'ah had already written his resignation letter, which includes protests against the signing of the PLO-Israel accord without consulting the Palestinian people's parliament.

"(PLO Chairman Yasir) 'Arafat has not only signed the agreement without consulting the different factions of the PLO, but he has also marginalised the role of all the organisation's legal institutions," the source said.

He said that Mr. 'Arafat's objective in calling for the PCC meeting "was to extract false legitimacy for the PLO-Israel agreement."

The source said Mr. Qub'ah's resignation was basically an expression of his rejection of the autonomy accord, a reflection of the PFLP's official position.

Saji Salamah, politburo member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said Mr. Qub'ah's resignation was consistent with the joint policy of the united leadership of the DFLP and the PFLP. Both leftist factions of the PLO rejected the PLO-Israel accord and announced they had set up a unified leadership which considers itself and any other Palestinian faction still adhering to the PLO's charter as the continuation of the PLO founded in 1965.

" 'Arafat and his inner group which signed the agreement have abandoned the PLO's Charter. Therefore they no longer represent the PLO's objectives or the Palestinian people," Mr. Salamah said. "We are the PLO."

Last month, DFLP and DFLP representatives in the PLO's Executive Committee withdrew from the committee in protest against the agreement. The two factions said they were seeking to forge a wide coalition to foil the accord.

A Tunis-based member of the PLO's mainstream Fatah faction and an adviser to Mr. 'Arafat said "Qub'ah's resignatin was an unfortunate step. But I think fighting the accord within the framework of the PLO's institutions would bear more fruit...the struggle should be from within."

PLO's 'Abbas on Gaza-Jericho Accord, Opposition

JN0710095293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Oct 93 p 16

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by correspondent Riyad Mansur in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Mansur] What will the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed in Washington, achieve on the ground for the Palestinian people when its articles are implemented?

['Abbas] The Palestinian-Israel agreement laid a fundamental and important basis: The Palestinian people have the right to own the territories occupied in 1967, and that this people can promote the situation created by the agreement from transitional self-rule to national independence. Thus, the course of matters that may arise from the implementation of this agreement will lead the people to independence.

The agreement stipulates that the Palestinian evacuees reserve the right to return home. However, the way, formalities, and arrangements for such a return need preparation, so the homeland would be ready to receive the evacuees. We will not forget the refugees' issue, which was placed on the agenda of the final phase for discussions based on international legitimacy.

Naturally, it is understood that the agreed entire political process aims to implement Resolution 242. This resolution would fairly and comprehensively solve the refugee issue. No other resolution addresses this problem, except for Resolution 194, which provides for compensation for those who do not wish to return. These two resolutions are our terms of reference.

Moreover, Resolution 194 was put on the negotiating table in the multilateral negotiations in Oslo and earlier in Ottawa. Some big countries agreed on this resolution. This shows that it is still valid and can be relied on from all aspects. We can say that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has regained the Palestinian people's identity, which was lost for more than 45 years. Each Palestinian will enjoy this identity.

[Mansur] In light of this, when will the Palestinian people return home?

['Abbas] The Palestinian people will begin to return as soon as the Palestinian authority is ready to receive them in terms of work, institutions, departments, and many other things that should be ready before people begin to return home. The repatriation will include anyone registered on 4 June 1967, including not only those who left the territories on that day but also anyone who was abroad and could not return home on that day.

[Mansur] How much time will the PLO need to finish the infrastructure?

['Abbas] This depends on the economic aid from world countries, including the United States, Europe, Japan, and the Arab states. Thus, the more generous and large this aid is, the more capable we will be of translating it on the ground, and the more prepared we will be.

[Mansur] The Gaza-Jericho First option was larger than the talk about Gaza alone. How did matters expand in the secret negotiations?

['Abbas] Basically, there was neither Gaza nor Jericho. The discussions fully concentrated on the West Bank and Gaza in general as one territorial jurisdiction. In the transitional phase, the Israeli forces will redeploy in the territories. Afterward, there will be discussions on the Israeli withdrawal. The Israelis used to reject the words withdrawal and occupied territories. Thus, this mentality had to be changed. Development, however, began by acknowledging that there is a Palestinian people and there are occupied Palestinian territories. In order to indicate that these territories are occupied, we had to discuss the idea of a symbolic withdrawal from any place whatsoever. We mentioned Gaza because Rabin once said that if an agreement was reached on a declaration of principles, he would withdraw from Gaza. We put this statement on the negotiating table in Oslo. At first, the Israeli delegation rejected the idea, but it ultimately accepted it.

Afterward, we made another symbolic proposal: namely, that Jericho be included. We, however, had differences for a long time on whether it would be the city of Jericho, the Jericho area, or the district of Jericho. However, we finally agreed on the Jericho area, which comprises both the city and the surrounding area. We later agreed on a safe corridor and the crossing points. All this was sequential because each matter required discussions on other matters.

[Mansur] Let us discuss the Palestinian opposition and how the PLO leadership will deal, specifically, with the Hamas Movement [Islamic Resistance Movement], which has a stronghold in Gaza?

['Abbas] The opposition existed even before the Palestinian revolution started. If we go back in history, we can see that the opposition started principally in 1939 when we people were split between the al-Majlis group and al-Difa' Party. Opposition, therefore, exists within the ranks of the Palestinian people, whether inside or outside the PLO. In the Palestinian arena there is a large measure of democracy and every Palestinian individual, and even every faction, has the right to be with or against.

We inside Fatah also have an opposition. Luckily for the revolution, the Palestinian opposition has not reached the point of spilling blood and I do not think it will reach that point. The opposition can express its views as its wishes, but we are accustomed to seeing some people in the opposition who used to protest against one point and then accept it, and when we move to the next point, they start protesting against the previous point, only to accept it at a later stage. This does not bother us because if we look at Israel, it has a stronger and more unrelenting opposition, but despite that, the Israeli Government has made a decision and is seeking to implement it.

Consequently, there are many options open to the opposition. It can either participate in the authority and elections inside the occupied territories while remaining in the opposition, or it can stay outside the Council and in the opposition and express its views. Opposition is a healthy phenomenon.

[Mansur] The Hamas Movement has set a condition for the Yemen meeting; that neither you nor President 'Arafat should attend the meeting. How do you view these conditions?

['Abbas] The Hamas Movement has always refused to meet with us. However, it seems that the rank-and-file of Hamas in the Palestinian arena inside the occupied territories wish to have a link between Hamas and Fatah. Therefore, the Hamas leadership consented. However, it wanted an excuse and set the condition that neither I nor President 'Arafat should attend the meeting. We do not care who attends the meeting, because we usually decide who should attend. But we do not accept to be told this person should attend, and this should not. I do not usually attend these meetings with Hamas. Brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] sometimes go to them, and sometimes does not. In any case, this issue does not concern us very much, because if there are good intentions to reach a result, then we are prepared to accept Hamas' invitation for a dialogue in Sanaa.

[Mansur] With the end of the transitional phase and the beginning of the final phase, will the Palestinian leadership allow the opposition to participate in the institutions of the Palestinian state?

['Abbas] The opposition must participate in the institutions of the Palestinian state. It must participate at a certain stage. If they do not wish to participate now, they can participate in the self-rule phase, and if they do not want to participate then, they can participate in the final phase. If they refuse to participate in the final phase, they can participate at a later stage. Every Palestinian—whether a supporter or an opposer—has the right to express his own views and to participate whenever he wishes and to leave whenever he wishes. Otherwise, we will be heading in the direction of dictatorship, which our people will reject. We want a party, intellectual, and cultural pluralism open to every Palestinian, especially since our political backgrounds are different.

I believe that when we reach the final stage, we will achieve the independent Palestinian state, which must be in a confederation with Jordan. We have been saying this since 1983 because the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples cannot be separated.

When fraternal Jordan announced the disengagement of ties with the West Bank, we disengaged. I believe engagement will be restored. Toward this end, our goal is one and this is the situation in general. However, there

should be a response, a desire, and a clear stand on the part of the brothers in Jordan. I do not think that Jordan has any views other than those we heard, that is, they accept a confederation.

[Mansur] What will be the features of the future Palestinian-Israeli relationship.

['Abbas] There must be some kind of coexistence and some kind of economic and regional cooperation in view of the interconnected issues we have with them. But I do not think this relationship will be at the expense of our relations with the Arab brothers.

[Mansur] Available information says you will not go to Gaza or Jericho. What are your reasons?

['Abbas] In my opinion, any Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza should be assumed by the people of the West Bank and Gaza. We will continue to be in the framework of this authority as an expression of the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside and so that we will together pursue unsolved issues like settlements, refugees, borders, security, relations with neighbors, and other issues, including our brothers in the diaspora. I believe the brothers in the territories should form the majority of those assuming official tasks in Gaza and the West bank.

[Mansur] Has an agreement been reached on this?

['Abbas] This is my own opinion, which is still under study.

[Mansur] What is the leadership's opinion?

['Abbas] The leadership is inclined to adopt this idea. I think this subject will be discussed seriously in order to reach a decision.

[Mansur] This means that part of the leadership will remain outside?

['Abbas] I think so, and I am one of them.

[Mansur] What makes you think of residing abroad?

['Abbas] There is a difference between residing and working. I may go to Gaza or Jericho or live in Nabulus, but we are talking about doing some sort of work which I prefer to be assumed by our kinfolk in the occupied territories.

[Mansur] The PLO Central Council will begin its meetings within a few days in order to endorse the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. However, the opposition will not attend these meetings. How can you guarantee the attendance of all?

['Abbas] Those who do not attend will lose their right to express their opinion at an official institution regardless of whether their opinion will be adopted or not. The opposition is entitled to express its opinion at the highest Palestinian body, that is, the PLO Central Council in the absence of the Palestine National Council, so that its voice can be heard everywhere and so that the opponents can express their positions and present their arguments. It is better for them to do so rather than express them in statements or newspapers that nobody reads.

[Mansur] The Syrian position on the agreement was clear. Do you think such a position may adversely affect the situation, especially since Syria is involved in the current peace process?

['Abbas] We always seek to develop the Palestinian-Syrian relationship as well as relations with all Arab brothers. I hoped that the brothers in Syria had accurately read the details of the agreement before passing judgment on it because basically it is not a Gaza-Jericho agreement. There are more than 16 clauses and five annexes in it. Only one appendix pertains to Gaza and Jericho. The rest talks about the terms of reference and linkage between the two stages, elections, right to legislation, and redeployment of forces. Therefore, when they talk about Gaza and Jericho, they give me the impression that they have not read the agreement. Consequently, I advise the Arab brothers to objectively study the agreement without sensitivities and then judge it. It is wrong to judge it with such nervousness. Naturally, some brothers like Syria may have an excuse because they were not briefed on the secret talks. I may excuse them, but they should not stop at this excuse but go beyond it.

[Mansur] Although the political Arab attitude toward the PLO has changed, the PLO continues to suffer financially. When do you expect an end to the financial Arab siege of the PLO?

['Abbas] This requires some time and some contacts, which I believe will take place in the near future. We have direct contacts with the brothers in the Gulf and I think we will find a solution to this crisis, which emerged from the Gulf war.

[Mansur] Once the Palestinian authority is established, what citizenship will the Palestinians have and what currency will they use?

['Abbas] Agreement should be reached on issues of currency and passports; these have not yet been discussed. If we agree that a confederation with Jordan is to take place after two or three years, then the currency will be Jordanian while passports will be Palestinian.

[Mansur] The deputy chairman of the Palestine mission at the United Nations said the mission will be dissolved by the end of this year in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. What is your opinion?

['Abbas] This is untrue. The Palestine UN mission, along with more than 100 Palestinian diplomatic missions all over the world will stay after the establishment of the Palestinian authority or autonomy in order to perform their duties as representatives of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the PLO will continue to exist. Therefore, I said right from the beginning that some sort of formula

linking the self-rule authority to the Palestinian leadership abroad should be devised as an expression of integration among the Palestinian people and as an indication that the Palestinian people's interests have not all been realized with our assumption of transitional rule. Many pending issues require that these institutions continue to exist.

The PLO will continue to exist because a solution was reached with it. Its name will remain the same because Rabin recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Israel has recognized the PLO, so why should we dissolve it? We were not asked to dissolve it. We would not dissolve it even if we were asked to do so.

During the transitional period, we will have no sovereignty. We should know that there is an authority but not sovereignty. As long as there is an Israeli Army, settlements, and foreign security, we cannot claim to have sovereignty. The agreement does not speak about sovereignty. Sovereignty comes at the final stage. There is a difference between sovereignty and authority. I do not want to misinterpret the words of the agreement nor do I want to deceive the citizen with fine empty words. Yes, we are about to assume power, but not sovereignty. Sovereignty will come in the final stage.

Algeria

Unidentified Assailants Kill 3 Officials

LD0610165193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The security services have said that Rezzig Mohamed, the head of the executive delegation of Ain El Hadjar municipality in the province of Bouira, and Belamri Djelloul, the local official in charge of the national organization of war veterans of the same province, were killed in their homes in the early hours today by unidentified armed men.

The same sources pointed out that the head of the executive delegation of Ouarizane municipality in the province of Relizane was killed yesterday by unidentified armed men.

Leftist Activist Rabah Guenzet Assassinated

LD0610130893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The funeral of the late Rabah Guenzet, the well-known struggler of the Ettahaddi Movement [an offshoot of the Socialist Vanguard Party, PAGS] will take place after evening prayers today at Sidi Yahia cemetery in Hydra [district of Algiers]. The late Rabah Guenzet was assassinated by an armed group outside his home in the capital. The late Guenzet is the second victim affiliated to the Ettahaddi Movement. He was assassinated a week after Abderrahmane Chergou [journalist killed on 27 September 1993].

Attack by 'Terrorist Group' Reported

LD0610210193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] It was learned from the security services that a terrorist group had opened fire [date unknown] with automatic weapons on a group of citizens near the Benghazi school in Baraki district [in Algiers], assassinating two citizens and injuring another. The security services also said that four terrorists had been liquidated in Laghouat. The same source said that eight citizens from the village of Henia in Tizi Ouzou had had their homes stormed and their guns taken away.

Algiers Factory Badly Damaged in Arson Attack

LD0610212593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] During the night of Monday-Tuesday [4-5 October], Sotramel Enterprise in Bou Kadir district, Chelef Province was set fire to. The fire has caused considerable material losses.

[Correspondent] A criminal fire was set on the night of Monday-Tuesday to Sotramel, in Oued Sly, Bou Kadir district, in Chelef. The fire destroyed eight trucks, and raw material used in manufacturing plastic and wheels rubber. This fire destroyed 35 percent of the enterprise' equipment. The enterprise was established in 1981, and employs 89 workers. [passage omitted]

Communications Minister Receives PRC Media Delegation

LD0210173793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Communications Minister Mohamed Merzoug received this morning at his ministry's headquarters an important PRC media delegation headed by (Tong Zhang Rong), vice minister of radio, film, and television. [title as heard]

The visit, which coincided with the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the PRC and Algeria, has been an occasion to push forward bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and peoples.

The Chinese official said at the beginning of his speech that relations between Algeria and China go back to the years Algeria was engaged in an armed struggle for liberation from the yoke of colonialism and for independence.

Mr. (Tong Zhang Rong) presented a review of the media field in his country. In particular, he said that China has 800 broadcasting facilities divided into four levels: the central level, the regional level, the provincial level, and the local level.

In response to the Chinese official, Communications Minister Merzoug said he is satisfied with the level of relations between the two friendly peoples. These relations began when Algeria had been in dire need of external support and recognition. He also noted that the PRC had been one of the first states to recognize the provisional government of the Algerian revolution. It was also among the states that lent a great support to the Algerian people during the war of liberation

The minister praised the distinguished policy of China, which respected the sensitivity and peculiarities of its people concerning the market economy. In this connection, he announced that Algeria also respects its people's peculiarity and interests without imitating any external example.

At the end of the meeting, which was attended by members of the Chinese delegation and the head of the department at the Ministry of Communications and all the national media group, the Chinese minister extended an invitation to the minister to visit the PRC, along with his assistants and the officials of Algerian media.

Egypt

Musa Notes Topics of Mubarak-Rabin Talks

NC0610191293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that during his meeting with Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, President Husni Mubarak discussed the peace process in the Middle East and the situation on the various negotiations tracks. In a statement this evening, Musa said that President Mubarak stressed the importance of exerting efforts to advance the negotiations, particularly on the Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Syrian tracks in tandem with the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jordanian tracks so that the process of a comprehensive peace may move forward gaining momentum from the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. He stressed that this agreement is a step on the path toward a comprehensive settlement.

Mubarak Interviewed on Domestic Issues

NC0410184393 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Sep 93 pp 3, 5

["Part one" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi'; place and date not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] Mr. President, we have lived with you through one of the most significant eras in modern Egyptian history. The entire world stands as witness to this and leaves it to us to determine the changes that have given this era its special significance. I wish you would shed light on these specific transformations or changes that have occurred in spite of the heavy legacy and the inevitable process of laying the foundation for the starting point.

[Mubarak] To put it briefly, I thank the Almighty, whenever I am alone, for guiding me to success in achieving the following for the Egyptian people and with their help:

- I have achieved for Egypt a permanent peace combined with the restoration of every inch of its land. More important is that this peace has been accompanied by a climate that attracts investment and development. History and present experience show that there can be no investment or development without peace.
- With the people, I have started to provide a favorable climate for a democratic experience based on the multiparty system, freedom of the press, and freedom of movement both for individuals and capital. This is a very difficult experience in a developing country burdened with the weight of four wars and an economy suffering from several imbalances.
- I have assembled the elite of the Egyptian and friendly states' sons to develop an ambitious development plan by which all Egyptian utilities can be renovated. We have added to the capacity of some of these utilities power sufficient for Egypt's needs up to the year 2000. We have rejuvenated out-dated factories, and we now have public investments amounting to 252.5 million Egyptian pounds, at book value.
- I have managed to put the Egyptian economy on the right road. It is now ready, from its strong position, to cooperate with other states. An integrated economic reform program was developed and implemented rationally and quietly. The entire world certified that it was the only such program in the developing world to score such success.
- I have struggled with all the powers available to me to preserve the unity and stability of this homeland. People are now reassured about their money. Do you know that Egyptian bank savings are 10 times what they were in 1983? And 90 percent of these savings belong to small depositors.
- I have maintained the social balance. I absolutely insisted on providing equal educational opportunities for all the sons of the homeland, on supporting the Egyptian workers' fair demands, and on maintaining and doubling the investments allocated to services to the poor. I will continue to take the side of the low-income people, who should have someone to support them. I am convinced that taking care of these people is part of the safety required for the rich.
- I have succeeded—and God knows how much I suffered—in convincing Egypt's debtors—most of them are governments—to write off $25.4 billions equal to 85 million Egyptian pounds, that burdened these people and particularly the next generations. Do you know the real significance of this? It simply means that we managed to rebuild and renovate the infrastructure free of charge.
- God Almighty has helped me gain the friendship of dozens of states. Arab-Egyptian relations are stronger than ever, we have distinctive relations with the United States and all European and Scandinavian states without exception, we have good relations with Japan and China. We are linked by fraternal ties with African states, and our relations and friendship with most other states in South America, Asia, Australia, and Canada are getting stronger.

[Nafi'] Mr. President, the entire world can certify that your era has been one of great changes. You know that the citizens attach great hopes to what might happen in the future. Can you tell us about the plans, programs of action, and policies that you have in mind for the future? I think that Your Excellency agrees with me that continuing the democratic development is in the forefront.

[Mubarak] Egypt witnessed the first pluralistic experience in the Arab world after a long period in which the one party or one political system prevailed. I contributed to the consolidation of the climate for shifting to political pluralism in the region in spite of the problems I faced. We are still hopeful that Egyptian democracy will be further enhanced so that Egypt can be an example to be followed, in the same way it provided the example for regional and Third World countries in its shift from a one-party to a multi-party system and political pluralism. The number of legal parties rose from 4 in 1981 to 13 parties today.

We are eager to provide favorable conditions in the future for developing democracy further. This means facing up to the violence and terrorism and securing the largest possible popular involvement in surrounding,

standing up to, and isolating these phenomena. This commitment stems from a deep belief that curing society's ailments, and even the problems involved in democracy itself, can only be done by more democracy rather than by limiting or backing down on democracy.

International experience has shown that the democratic system is the only one capable of correcting the course and mistakes. Our goal is to reach a full democratic system gradually: a system that allows everyone to exercise legal public action and express views, that secures the best guarantees for public and local elections and the largest possible popular participation in running public affairs, and that ensures full respect for individual and collective rights and freedoms to all sons of the people without exception.

[Nafi'] Within the framework of safeguarding this sacred principle of taking into account the homeland's supreme interests in every move and decision, and as part of your firm view that any change should occur at the appropriate time and when the public interests require, what is the extent of the ministerial changes or any other administrative changes that might be necessary in the new stage?

[Mubarak] What I can say now is that the next stage will see broad and comprehensive changes on the political, executive, and administrative levels. This, in my view, is the nature of every stage that Egypt goes through. The situation may require making unlimited changes in ministerial posts in order to reach the goals we cherish. In addition, the changes are in line with the ambitions we aspire to fulfill in the future, for example, achieving economic stability late in 1995, promoting the laws of state civil service employees, and liberalizing the prices of agricultural crops. As you can see, in all our reform processes we have taken and will continue to take into account the interests of the poor farmers, workers, and low income employees. I said before and repeat anew that the economic reforms will never infringe on the rights of workers, peasants, or state employees. As for the administrative aspect, I do not want to use resounding slogans such as administrative revolution and the like. I believe we are duty-bound to focus in future changes on confronting the problems of daily life from which the masses are suffering. I know these problems and feel their burden, particularly in health services and in the areas of traffic, identification cards, payment of telephone bills and taxes, and other paperwork that concerns the masses. Modern facilities must be used in all these offices. I believe that modernization of work will facilitate collection of the state fees and improve performance of the state service departments and save time. This is the substance of work for public interest and the basis of any change. I hope all these issues and other developments will be the substance of a broad national dialogue.

[Nafi'] I believe that any broad national dialogue involving all developments in Egypt, and its future will focus on the issue of democratic progress and what has been achieved in its components—freedom of the press—which during your era has made progress that is unprecedented in surrounding countries and is recognized even in democratic countries. Is there a possibility for increasing this freedom?

[Mubarak] True, freedom of the press is one of the most important aspects of democratic development. The eighties witnessed substantial progress toward this freedom out of my deep faith in the importance of the role of the press as critic and watchdog. I was concerned that the press should have no power over it but the law. The press in Egypt has been liberated from the restrictions of censorship. Its role has grown in guiding national action. The press now publishes diverse views and concepts and provide writers and thinkers the opportunity to express their views. The only censor on any writer is his conscience and the sense of the danger of challenges facing the homeland and his assessment of what is right and wrong. No government agency interferes with any writer. Despite the problems that arise from the way certain newspapers address some issues involving special sensitivities, all that the government does in such cases is to appeal to these papers to verify the reports they publish and to avoid exaggeration. No writer, however, has been prevented from expressing his views, because the democratic development we seek to complete cannot be invigorated without a mature public opinion capable of telling right from wrong, judging things, and choosing. This goal can only be reached by enhancing the freedom of the press notwithstanding certain excesses in this or that paper. All legal parties in Egypt are entitled to issue newspapers and publications without restriction or censorship on their reports. In addition, the national papers have become open platforms for diverse views and ideas that agree or differ with the government's course and approach. These papers should be more open to various trends in the future. We hope that in the future there will be more freedom for the press to contribute to democratic progress and guard the people's real interests. We hope that in the future the values enshrined in the charters of the press code of honor will be further entrenched.

[Nafi'] We certainly join you in looking forward to a bigger, deeper, and more enlightened contribution by the partisan and national press toward opening up more to the various trends in the future. Perhaps it would be right to say that the role of the Egyptian press in the future must primarily focus on safeguarding the national stability whose foundations you have established. Perhaps the first requirement in this regard is to mobilize the masses behind the state to face terrorist attempts to undermine Egypt's stability. Naturally, President Mubarak must have his own views on how to safeguard this stability.

[Mubarak] There will definitely be an increasing need in the coming stage to safeguard and consolidate stability, which some terrorist groups are trying to undermine with external aid. This is a major task that cannot be borne by the security agencies alone. Free and effective popular participation, backed by further democratic progress, must play a genuine role toward that end, a task which we have no doubt our people can accomplish. The

people have a direct interest in safeguarding stability and confronting terrorism, which is targeting their income and national economy. Our noble people cannot accept seeing the interests of the entire nation undermined, the property of the nation destroyed, and the people terrorized by a few deviant people. Terrorism is alien to Egypt's soil, values, and tradition and cannot find roots in it. One of our national tasks in the coming stage is to consolidate our internal front and national cohesion. This calls for emphasizing that the most precious things that Egypt has now are its national unity and the awareness of its people, from all factions, that they have an interest in playing a positive role in making a future. The parties must contribute to this vital issue, and to be fair, most of them have played a very good role, such as the Wafd and the Grouping Parties, to mention a few.

[Nafi'] If continuing economic progress in this specific and effective way represents the natural ways for progress of life in Egypt as a whole, what does President Mubarak see when looking at the future?

[Mubarak] Very briefly, I want Egypt in the coming stage to move from a low-income developing country to a middle-income country. This will not be possible unless Egyptian society turns into a community capable of increasing its productivity steadily and continuously and selling the largest part of these products in the world markets. To put it simply, this will not be possible unless there is a huge and steady annual increase in our national production, the quality of products is on a par with world standards, and our exports increase much more than they are doing now, and here I specifically mean our commodity exports, whether industrial or agricultural.

[Nafi'] Mr. President, you have given us hope, but allow me to give the people some details about how this hope could be fulfilled.

[Mubarak] The coming period, in particular, will see close cooperation between the three parties participating in achieving this desirable progress in national production and exports; namely, the government, the public and private sectors, and the workers. The next stage will see a constant, constructive, and sincere dialogue and a firm conviction in the inevitability of listening to counter opinions from all parties and national forces. In addition, the development programs and policies and the mechanism for their implementation will not finally be drafted by a specific party. Instead, a dialogue will be held among the various factions of the people and their legitimate organizations. I want all the people and partisan and trade union organizations to contribute with their opinions and studies on such issues as how to attract investments, the effective use of the resources available to us, and adherence to the values that require seriousness, discipline, and quality.

[Nafi'] I suppose that the call for dialogue must proceed on the basis of studies that have already been made, and I have a feeling that you have reviewed these studies. Could we publish highlights of these studies?

[Mubarak] Since you insist, I will give AL-AHRAM readers some broad lines on the major courses of action that I suggest we all, the government and people, should follow in the coming period.

The first course of action involves the need to make available more resources and exert greater efforts to pay attention to production facilities in Egypt, current and potential investors, and workers. In this regard, the following will be specifically done in the coming period:

- Constant efforts will be made by the state to assist national projects and promote investment to achieve tangible and continuous increase in productivity in all sectors. The Egyptian industry will be the leading sector in development, supported by the agriculture, tourism, and oil sectors.
- The necessary infrastructure work will be completed to reclaim millions of feddans. Before the end of this century, every single cultivable feddan in Egypt will be cultivated. We will give momentum to the current efforts to apply modern technology to agriculture.
- The import systems will be revised to protect national products from all types of unlawful competition and provide security and assurances to producers. Free trade is unquestionable, and the foreign trade will be gradually liberalized, but not at the expense of national products. We cannot accept the undermining of Egyptian products through unlawful competition.
- We will give special incentives to set up specialized institutions that serve small producers and provide easy finance for small-scale projects in villages and poor areas as well as institutions that transfer successful experiments in the field of developing small-scale projects.

We will continue our investments for establishing new industrial and urban areas and will give special incentives for the private sector to contribute to establishing and developing these areas.

We will forward to the specialized institutions and then to the People's Assembly the necessary legislation, programs, and policies to stimulate the export of Egyptian goods to world markets. We have great and growing resources in industry and tourism. Furthermore, the reports in front of me confirm that we have a surplus in some agricultural products, such as cotton and rice, which must be exported. Besides, our exports of services such as the services of banks, insurance, foreign transport, and the application of data technology should increase.

A team of experts is now preparing comprehensive legislation for economic activity to unify the bases for dealing with all economic projects, to stabilize these bases, and ensure an ideal climate for investment in Egypt.

We will designate more credits and intensify development efforts in the institutions that work for the Egyptian workers welfare. We will also increase investments allocated for vocational, technological, and administrative training.

As you know, the targeted increase in production is not only in terms of quantity; we also want an improvement in value so that revenues that our installations designate to increase wages and investments will increase in order to increase the state's tax base. This has not been achieved in any country without the expeditious construction of national technology bases. We will give special attention to building such bases and will concentrate our efforts on linking them with international development centers. We will also encourage these bases to link up with international companies and we will participate in financing the transfer of new technology that our installations cannot afford to transfer.

We will pursue the work to reform general investments and the reform will be comprehensive. Work in this area will be intense and serious so that the people will be secure in preserving their investments and we will gradually transfer the ownership of part of these investments to the people. We will use the accrued fund in settling the companies' debts to the banks and we will reinvest the remainder to create new jobs for Egypt's young men.

As you know, we now have a system using the most modern technology in handling debts and I have been eager to expedite its application to gain full control over foreign debt. I hope that the next stage will see a further reduction in what remains of these debts.

You also know that I have been concerned that the money market law should contain provisions that allow and encourage the formation of unions in the companies to purchase part of the public companies' shares for the workers in these companies. A percentage of the shares put up for sale will be allocated to the workers and the sale will take place on easy prices and terms. Workers have the right to own part of the shares of the successful business sector companies in which they work. The shares will be sold to them for prices under the market prices and with easy repayment terms.

We are at the beginning of the road to stimulate the money market, the market through which savings are attracted for investment in economic projects. We will monitor the experiment under the current legislation and ask the experts to assess it. Should it need to be developed, we will not hesitate to push it through, even if this needs the introduction of some amendments to the current law.

[Nafi'] Discussing this approach to improve all aspects of the Egyptian economic performance, we believe we need to learn in detail your view on how to pursue the difficult process of the economic reform so that we achieve our goal of improving the state's revenue and developing the citizen's living.

[Mubarak] Undoubtedly, the economic reform policy represents one of the most important aspects of work in the next phase, now that the first phase has been successful in presenting the Egyptian economy to the world with a new image completely different from the previous image. Economic issues have been tackled with serious and deliberate studies and adequate solutions have been set for them in an unconventional way. All the people have felt the comprehensive overhaul of society's infrastructure of electricity, roads, transport, public utilities, telephones, and communications. I believe that this has helped a great deal in creating the most appropriate circumstances to attract more local, Arab, and foreign investments.

These reforms were accompanied by enormous significant changes in the society's organizational, legal, and administrative areas. The economic reform policy was in the context of these changes and will continue to be so in the stage to come in order to implement a comprehensive program to enhance the market economy approach. This helps the state to further mobilize its resources and better allocate them to the various purposes that concern the citizens. It also gives impetus to economic reform, consolidates private initiative, and liberates economic, administrative, and organizational policies. In addition, it improves the balance of payment position and restores balance to the public state budget. This was made possible through numerous fundamental reforms in the society's economic structure. By doing this, we were able to avoid negative influences we could have faced as a result of developments in the world, the Arab region, and the African world. The reforms and changes we conducted curbed the impact of these events on the whole society to a great extent. Moreover, they reduced waste in our resources and productive capacity.

This was all conducted within the framework of candidness; we were forthright with the people, revealing all the facts and talking about all the realistic aspirations and ambitions that could be fulfilled at a given time. I believe that this is the only sound approach capable of tackling the country's economic problems.

[Nafi'] Will we pursue the same economic policy in the coming stage?

[Mubarak] Our future economic policy will be marked by the same comprehensibility, unity of goal, and full integration among the various instruments, because this is the approach that has restored the Egyptian citizen's trust in his homeland, provided a favorable atmosphere for productive investments, and made the private sector a major partner to the productive process.

To continue this march, we will continue to push the wheel of development and economic growth forward by further developing productive sectors and giving priority to commodity sectors to fulfill the citizens' needs. We will get the most help from the achievements of the financial and monetary policy that brought about monetary stability in Egypt. We will maintain the policy of liberating the public business sector to enhance its capability and efficiency in managing its economic resources and their allocation and to make it more cost-efficient and, accordingly, more capable of competing in local and international markets.

I believe that this goal is one of the most important challenges we will encounter in the coming period, in

view of the significant and vital role the public business sector plays in the community.

This obviously means that the present privatization policy does not aim to get rid of the public sector entirely, because this is a wrong and distorted deduction. It primarily aims to achieve a rational management of society's economy and to make optimal use of our resources. This requires that we make use of all the resources available to society in both the public and private sectors and guarantee their management on a solid, modern basis regardless of the sector to which the economic unit belongs. In other words, we will not content ourselves with reforming the public sector; reforms will certainly extend to the private sector to determine the best approach to ensuring its contribution to the desired growth process.

[Nafi'] This approach actually puts Egypt at the threshold of a new era. But it complements the already achieved reforms. Where do the low-income groups stand from that economic structure approach?

[Mubarak] You seem to be reading my mind. The second course of action in the coming stage will involve taking care of the low-income groups. These people's conditions, needs, and the society's ability to fulfill these needs have always occupied me.

I would like to draw your attention to an important fact that should not be disregarded. An increase in production as such, making use of idle energies, increasing projects, and taking care of small industries will indirectly help the low-income groups by providing thousands of new jobs and increasing wages and incentives for workers. The workers' ownership of part of the shares of profitable companies will entitle them to cash in the profits accrued to them. However, there is another fact we should understand; a portion of the society's population will continue to need state care. I take these people's side; providing services for these people is always on my mind. The increase in production will also involve villages and rural areas. I gave instructions to provide the easy-term loans necessary to finance productive families and professional projects and to build the areas required to absorb small productive projects. Our experts are studying this experiment to apply it in some governorates in Upper Egypt and then generalize it further.

A group of financially able and sincere Egyptians are floating the idea of establishing an Egyptian fund to care for the low-income people who are unable to work. We will give this idea special attention, support it, and provide this group with guarantees for success and the best use of these funds.

- The state will continue to subsidize low-cost housing units for the poor and to subsidize electricity for certain categories. In the meantime, we will make sure that the subsidy reaches those who deserve it. As you know, the state is subsidizing low-cost housing units by giving soft loans to those who get such units. This year, this subsidy will cost us 730 million pounds. We will continue this subsidy, despite the enormous burden it causes, and increase it year after year.
- The development plan is currently being reconsidered to secure more investments for the service projects in the Upper Egyptian governorates and villages as well as in shantytowns, particularly the drinking water and sanitary drainage projects. We know that these projects cost billions every year, but we are trying to secure these funds, and we will, God willing. The priority will be for governorates deprived of these services in Upper Egypt and the Delta.
- I know that the poor, and others as well, suffer when they deal with many government departments. Each minister and governor will be clearly instructed to spend part of his time to assess the quality of service at the departments under his authority and to participate in preparing programs for administrative reforms in all the areas under his supervision. Accountability will be strict and the evaluation of the performance of the leading figures will be judged by the success they make in making life easier for the people, cutting red tape, and ending any attempt to blackmail citizens or obstruct their business.

[Nafi'] Mr. President, please excuse me for burdening you, but I feel that the picture of the new Egyptian society that you are trying hard to shape will be completed when we hear to your views on the Egyptian workers and people.

[Mubarak] Now you are taking me to the third course of national action in the coming period. But before this, I would like to answer those who claim that Egyptian workers are unproductive. I have met many foreign businessmen and investors in joint companies. They all assured me that the Egyptian worker and technician enjoy the highest sense of learning, ability to work hard, readiness for discipline, and an unquenchable desire to acquire more skills. So, have mercy on the Egyptian workers, who constitute one of the mainstays in our program for increasing productivity and exports. I am certain that the Egyptian workers and their trade unions are capable, with our support, of turning Egypt into the biggest production base in the Middle East. Now we come to the facts dictated by the circumstances of the age, which have become quite clear to me and which were the subject of constant dialogue between me and many countries. They could be summed up as follows:

The performance of the Egyptian worker, in terms of production, quality, and innovation must reach the level of his competitors worldwide. We are racing against time and many countries are ahead of us in this regard. We will rearrange our priorities in government investments to give priority to spending on education reforms. This will be done by increasing the number of schools at various levels and modernizing the existing ones to be able to educate and upgrade the basic skills of youngsters. From now on, the emphasis will be on the early acquisition of skills and capabilities that allow Egyptian youngsters to contribute to increasing and upgrading productivity in the future.

We are now examining ways to upgrade technical schools to turn them into educational and training facilities. We will start this experiment with a small number of schools. An agreement has been reached with friends in Germany to contribute to and supervise this plan. We will gradually expand this experiment after securing all the elements necessary for its success.

We will provide financial assistance and facilities to the training centers set up at the production units. All such units in the advanced states and those eager to advance give special attention to what they call continuing education. They race to make sure that this training is serious, to explain all new and innovative trends, and to include all employees, from the bottom to the top.

When preparing cooperation accords with advanced nations, we should give priority to securing the aid necessary to develop vocational, technical, and administrative training centers.

We will also set up modern technology training centers in the areas where craftsman industries are located. I will discuss with the Egyptian business sector the idea of establishing specialized centers to look after creative, inventive, and talented people. We will give them the opportunity to pursue their training in the world's advanced centers at the state's expense. At the same time, we will support the national companies' efforts to increase their workers' output and modernize and improve their products' specifications to world standards. In addition, we will facilitate the regular travel of business sector and public service leaders to conferences specializing in developing products and improving quality. We will participate in financing the establishment of companies specializing in training specialists on designing equipment, machinery, intermediate products, power stations, and electronic components.

[Nafi'] Mr. President, can this task, for which we pray God will help you, be accomplished? Can this cultural transformation for Egypt be implemented without stability and peace?

[Mubarak] I fully agree with you that construction cannot be safe if it endangered, even if this danger is limited. However, I want to assure you that such a danger does not exist. A small hired faction cannot destroy a good and noble population of nearly 60 million. No small faction can defeat a society that has police and soldiers whose competence and ability to defeat the enemies has been witnessed by the world.

We will not allow the use of force in propagating any thought or opinion and will put down any attempt to stir any form of sedition and to control any society or organization by illegal means. We will not allow the presence of any organization advocating sedition and subversion. At the same time, we must be able to foil any attempted treason or treachery before it takes place. We will preserve this nation's achievements and gains against the desperate attempt to destroy some of them and block the livelihood of thousands of citizens.

Specifically, if you want to know the plan for the next stage, all police and security agencies requirements will be provided to enable them to nip in the bud the conspiracies being hatched against the citizen. These agencies will always have the ability to take the initiative.

Dialogue with all popular organizations and legal parties continues; it never ceased and will not cease to uproot sedition, devise development programs, and eliminate terrorism. The dialogue is held only with those who use dialogue as a means of clarifying the truth.

Educational development experts are now studying other countries' experiments in the early training of students on exercising democracy. This practice did not begin in the advanced world through demonstration, vituperation, and defying legitimacy. It began in this world and has continued to encourage dialogue on development problems, ways to serve society and raise its individuals and ways to care for those in society who cannot care for themselves. It continues to devise programs that can be implemented to increase the individuals' ability to earn their living.

An integrated plan is now being implemented to secure Egypt's entry points and borders through the use of the most modern scientific and technological methods.

We will intensify our effort to establish close ties with all friendly countries to ensure the protection of Egypt against terrorists' attempts at infiltration.

Most important, the people have realized that their livelihood and their sons' future might be endangered because of the acts of a criminal sinful minority. Therefore, citizens in all villages and neighborhoods have begun to come forward voluntarily to discover pockets of terrorism and also to participate in confronting them. We will all work to protect our gains and to achieve what you called a miracle which will come soon, God willing.

Mubarak on International Issues

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["Part two" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi'; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Nafi'] Mr. President, allow me to convey to you some remarks that mention a diminishing Egyptian role after the establishment of peace and the commencement of direct negotiations among all the parties concerned.

[Mubarak] The entire world knows that Egypt did not look for a role; the opposite is more like it. The parties concerned in the region, as well as the parties to the disputes that have developed in the area over time, have always sought Egypt's contribution of sincere advice, support for what is right, and facing up to the aggressor. Power attracts parties to disputes and those who have multiple interests. I am not talking here about military

power alone; I also mean the power of civilization, economic progress, a skilled and trained work force, and the power of experience in undertaking gigantic projects. Power today and tomorrow will come from productive minds. With its scientists, experts, writers, authors, and artists, Egypt will continue to be a strong pole that attracts neighbors and brothers.

[Nafi'] Some ask about the special and distinctive ties you have managed to establish with the United States, the EC, Japan, and China. Some malevolently claim that this might provide a motive for taking sides.

[Mubarak] Indeed, we have distinctive relations with these states. We were eager to establish such ties, because these states have much good to offer Egypt.

The United States is the major superpower in the world; its decisions and foreign and economic policies certainly reflect on the world market. Hence, it is necessary to maintain coordination with it to serve our common interests. Since 1975, the United States has granted us $11.936 billion for economic development and $15.294 billion to support our armed forces.

The EC and the Scandinavian countries represent the second biggest economic grouping in the world. Most of these states have taken serious steps to establish a united market. We have common interests with these states as well. Thanks to the improving relations with individual states and the distinctive relation with the European group as an organization, we have obtained non- repayable assistance amounting to $800 million over the past 14 years.

We must not forget that, in addition to being as large as it is, the EC is the nearest market to Egypt. If we want to achieve concrete growth in our exports, we have to develop our relations with the EC to enable our exports to enjoy privileges similar to those enjoyed by EC member states.

Our relations with Japan are very good. Everyone is studying with admiration the Japanese development experience. America and Europe are developing their relations with Japan to attract Japanese investments. We should not forget the assistance Japan offered us in clearing the Suez Canal and building the opera house and a number of modern hospitals.

Our relations are excellent with China as well. China has made undeniable stands in support of us. It also granted us easy-term loans, particularly the loan we used in building the biggest conference hall in the Middle East. We should not forget that China is now the focus of world attention. China has the highest growth rate in the world and is implementing a unique program for economic reform, liberation, and export development. It is useful for our experts to exchange views and engage in a dialogue on the pros and cons of this experience. [passage omitted]

[Nafi'] Regarding what is being published in the press; businessmen and many visitors were alarmed by what the world media reported about the incidents that have taken place in Egypt in the past year. We think that published reports, even in some Arab newspapers and mass media, were exaggerated, even according to some neutral people. Do you believe that this was deliberate?

[Mubarak] I agree that what was published was exaggerated, particularly since everyone knows that the victims of these incidents in a year numbered fewer than those in some American cities in a week. Everyone is suffering from the terrorist phenomenon, and everyone is doing his utmost to overcome it.

However, I have to be fair and remind you that many world newspapers and mass media sought the truth; they repeatedly affirm that individuals—Egyptians and visitors alike—feel safer in Egyptian cities than in most cities of the world.

I think you know that some writers in world newspapers were unfortunately deceived by some Egyptian elements who have a record of slandering the homeland's reputation and fabricating falsenesses. These elements have not stopped fabricating lies about the homeland and its honorable sons. But these lies have started to be exposed before the entire world and the truth is now known just as it is. [passage omitted]

The Syrian Issue

[Nafi'] I believe that your recent meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin were an opportunity to talk with the two parties about the status of the peace negotiations between them. What can be said about the current situation and future prospects?

[Mubarak] Syria has an important status in the Arab world, both because of its special geographical position and the role it has played at various stages of the region's history since the Umayyad state was established in Damascus. When the Arab-Israeli conflict arose, Syria assumed a prominent role in handling it. Its people made sacrifices and bore heavy burdens that exhausted a large portion of their resources. For all these reasons it is wrong to downplay the conflict's Syrian dimension or to spare any effort to attain a just settlement acceptable to both the Syrian and Israeli publics. Such a settlement must rest on free choice and a conviction that this solution is in line with legal norms and achieves the desired balance between the two sides.

When Israel and the PLO reached an agreement on a declaration of principles providing for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza, some people believed that this development would make it less important to reach agreement on the Syrian front. Some Israelis thought that it was difficult for their government to operate on two simultaneous tracks.

While we appreciate the difficulty of achieving notable progress in the negotiations in a limited time span and acknowledging that the Israeli officials are more qualified than others to determine how much political leeway they have in moving toward peace, our assessment of the situation is the following: Any progress on one of the Arab fronts will make progress on the other fronts easier because it will narrow the scope of the conflict and reinforce the Arab nations' and Israeli public's confidence in the possibility of peaceful, secure coexistence now and in the future.

When Egypt concluded its peace treaty with Israel in March 1979, some people imagined that this would inevitably damage the prospects of comprehensive peace because Israel would not have an incentive to accept the peace challenge with the other Arab parties. Experience has demonstrated that this theory was wrong and based on unproven assumptions. What actually happened was that an attractive model was created for the other Arab parties and Israel to follow. Consequently negotiations did not have to begin from square one again but from the point reached by the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. Fundamental principles were laid down, notably the importance of fully implementing the land-for-peace equation and agreeing on acceptable security arrangements that protect the interests of the two sides and do not damage their sovereignty. Moreover, applying the peace concept to the relations between the two sides concluding an agreement does not mean that either must accept conditions that contravene its interests or its people's wishes.

To put it briefly, we believe that all the events that have occurred since the Madrid peace conference in October 1991 make an agreement between fraternal Syria and Israel more likely than before. I believe that the Israeli people can [as published] fail to appreciate the fact that the future will be brighter and more reassuring if they reach agreement with Israel. As long as agreement can be reached over security arrangements not much different from those included in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, no one in Israel must imagine that a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights will be risky. Nor must they think of it as an unjustified concession because you cannot concede what you do not rightfully own. Israel has no right to keep any territory it occupied. The world community no longer permits the seizure of other nation's territories by way of invasion; UN Security Council Resolution 242 illustrates this principle and considers it an important basis for any peaceful settlement.

It is for these considerations that I wanted to explain to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, only weeks after he became prime minister, the importance and the possibility of achieving tangible progress with Syria and the need for abandoning the wrong assumptions on which the various parties had built their stands in the past.

Similarly, I stressed to Prime Minister Rabin when I met him in Alexandria recently that reaching an agreement with Syria has now become a more urgent and persistent issue and that when this agreement is concluded, it will be the key to achieving progress on all the other tracks.

I was also anxious to speak in the same manner with my brother President Hafiz al-Asad. What I heard from him strengthened my belief in the possibility of reaching an agreement within a reasonable period that will not be a long one.

This does not mean that an agreement between Syria and Israel is imminent, that it can be reached within weeks, or that I have obtained a pledge or categorical commitment from either of the two parties. This is not my way in my efforts between the parties. Nor is it the way to help reach an agreement. But what I want to say unambiguously and unequivocally is that it is possible and it is even likely that a tangible relaxation will take place in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations in the coming months. It is wrong for anyone to think that we need some time to allow for what has happened between Israel and the Palestinians to be digested.

I say once again that the signing of the declaration of principles for self-government in the Palestinian territories will facilitate reaching an agreement on the Syrian front.

Every Israeli can ask himself the following questions: Was an agreement between Israel and the PLO not more difficult to reach than one with the Syrian people? Having reached a preliminary understanding with the Palestinians, with whom we believed we would live in constant conflict, then is it not more worthwhile for us to seek an agreement with the Syrian people? What do we fear from a withdrawal from the Golan if the two parties are bound by security arrangements that can assure the two people of a secure future free from fears and danger?

On Relations With the United States

[Nafi'] Mr. President, some of the lies about Egypt began to incite friends against Egypt, and there were demands that aid be cut to it. In fact, these lies were indirectly aimed at trying to urge the international financial institutions to take an extreme stand on Egypt. Is there a possibility that friendly countries would be affected by these lies and that their aid to Egypt would be cut? What about the expected visit to the United States?

[Mubarak] There are many reasons why it is important for us to continue relations, dialogue, and exchange of opinions with the United States. It is a friendly country with a respectable status in the international arena. It plays a prominent role in the formulation of the new world order, even though it is not the only one setting the rules and regulations of this order. In addition, it is one of the international powers most interested in Middle Eastern affairs, for many reasons. Some of these reasons pertain to American national interests and Western views on the strong link between security and stability in this region on the one hand, and between peace and prosperity in the world on the other. Some of these reasons can be traced back to the concern of a substantial number of Americans for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli

conflict. These combined reasons have led to the emergence of Middle Eastern affairs on the list of American political priorities. In addition, they have revealed the concern of consecutive American Administrations for playing an active role in everything that pertains to this part of the world.

This does not mean that American interests coincide with Arab, or specifically Egyptian, interests. The point is that there is a large circle of cooperation and understanding between the two sides, which could expand greatly the congruity of interests between the two sides.

The circle of mutual interest between us and the United States is not restricted to establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, though this is important. This circle expands to include participation in providing the appropriate circumstances for the progress of social and economic development efforts in the region, in addition to other issues proposed on the international arena, such as cooperation between the industrially developed countries of the north and the developing countries of the south.

Relations between Egypt and the United States have traditionally been cordial, distinguished by understanding and mutual respect. They did not deviate from this framework except for a very short period of time, the circumstances of which everyone knows very well. And since this tension in relations between the countries has been overcome, we have been proceeding toward developing these relations continuously.

We have cooperated with successive U.S. Administrations to realize this congruity, which I can safely claim witnessed notable progress recently in the years when George Bush was president. I can also assert that I sensed when I met with President Clinton during the first week of last April total concern to intensely develop this cooperation. I also sensed that he has a great deal of interest in and knowledge about Middle Eastern affairs. I also found that he is a good listener who pays careful attention to the opinions and information proposed to him. I felt after this meeting that relations between the two countries will witness a strong push forward during his presidency.

Therefore, I am looking forward to meeting him this autumn at a date which will be set in the next few weeks to exchange opinions and consult on all Arab-U.S. relations. This means that we will have before us an agenda abounding in subjects such as the peace process in the Middle East and the need to realize tangible progress on the various fronts without delay, the situation in the Gulf countries, the conflict between Libya and the three Western countries, the situation in Somalia, and the role the United States could play to help Egypt and the rest of the countries in the region to develop a structure for production and services in these countries, especially in the field of education, health, and integration of modern technology. In addition, there are also the African issues, for which I shoulder a special responsibility in representing them as chairman of the OAU. Of the latter issues, the most important are the debts accumulating for the African countries, the situation in South Africa, and the dangers of aridity and desertification.

These are Arab and African concerns, and I must carry them with me when I cross the Atlantic on my way to Washington. They are heavy burdens, undoubtedly, but the objective is not to dump them on the shoulders of the U.S. Administration. The intention is that we cooperate with each other to place these issues within a framework enabling us to cope with them effectively and successfully. Our joint benefit and mutual interest rests on such cooperation, especially after the world has become the big village that it is.

As for reports propagated by some sides here and there in the past few months about the presence of some form of tension in Egyptian-U.S. relations, they were merely a misunderstanding or misinterpretation of what is happening on the ground-floor levels. Cooperation between us is at its best. There is mutual understanding and compatibility. We both understand and appreciate the differences in the views of the two sides regarding a certain problem. This happens due to the fact that the two countries fall in two geographically very different regions. It is only natural that they have differences in their approach to various problems. Each of us is more knowledgeable about the problems and issues that directly affect the interests of their own country.

On the Libyan Crisis

[Nafi'] Excuse me, Mr. President, if I say that there is a general feeling of anxiety in Arab circles over the major countries' stand toward Libya, particularly after the press published a draft resolution presented to the Security Council to impose more sanctions against it. Can you tell us how you view the matter and what can be said about the recent mission to Libya by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs?

[Mubarak] We are deeply interested in the problems, interests, and stability of this fraternal country because Libya is a brotherly country, and we have special ties with it that go beyond neighborliness and links between the peoples. It is based on this that we do not spare any efforts to help reach a cordial and acceptable solution to the conflict between Libya on the one hand and the United States, Britain, and France on the other, over two incidents, one against an American plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the other against a French plane over Niger some years ago.

Our aim in exerting all these efforts is to avoid an uncontrolled escalation in the situation that could lead to consequences not beneficial to any party. It is no secret that we have exerted strenuous efforts in this respect from the moment this conflict appeared. Everyone will come to know about the efforts we have made when the time comes. We will continue to exert these efforts tirelessly until a way out

of this crisis is reached. Everyone will also come to know about the escalatory actions which we have succeeded in halting and avoiding. This does not mean that we can control the situation completely, because there are several parties and each one of them has its own positions and considerations that compel it to make specific policies. But the important thing is that Egypt has so far succeeded in unmistakably influencing this situation in a positive way. We are doing this out of concern for the interests of all the parties, including the Egyptian, because it is undoubtedly in our interest to see stability prevail in Libya, its people enjoy security, and relations between it and all countries become ones of cooperation and cordiality.

I sent the director of my office for political affairs with a message to the Libyan revolution's leader that dealt with bilateral relations and the conflict between Libya and three Western countries. The envoy brought me back a reply from the Libyan revolution's leader that stressed the depth of relations between our two countries and their desire to maintain the strongest of ties within a common concept of the unity of the interests of all the Arab peoples. I also asked the director of my office to deliver a message to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who leads a fraternal country with which we have unique relations. We are happy to be able to receive brother President Ben Ali here in Cairo before the end of this year and continue the dialogue and consultations in the interest of our common good.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech in Sabha

LD0510224293 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1051 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the 32d anniversary of a student demonstration led by al-Qadhdhafi to protest the 1961 break in relations between Syria and Egypt in Sabha on 5 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] The first remark I would like to make is very important and must come before anything else. This brown, tremendous force you have seen today; this young and tremendous force which today started off in Sabha does not belong in Sabha; its place is not in isolation. Its place is on the frontline of confrontation with the enemy.

This brown power terrifies the enemy. It has to prepare to advance toward the north, toward the Mediterranean coastline to take up positions at this historic and strategic station [ribat] between the [word indistinct] al-Jabal al-Akhdar and Jabal Nafusa.

You have to prepare to advance northward to join [word indistinct] the historic and strategic station on the Mediterranean coastline, the frontline to confront the enemies. History always repeats itself.

The enemies lying in wait behind the Mediterranean and the Atlantic are once again preparing to launch a crusade against our country.

Brothers, you have to get ready to confront the enemies. This isolated oasis does not mean anything in confrontation. We shall leave this oasis behind us, and we are not afraid. However, your place, O young people, O men, is in the historic fortress that we will build everyday and night on the shores of the great Mediterranean. That Arab lake was usurped at a moment of our weakness and transformed into a Roman lake in which the enemies' fleets roam and threaten our shores.

The confrontation has become real, yet again, between us and our historic enemies, who have not stopped century after century from invading our country and attempting to dominate the Mediterranean and Middle East, to annex our country unjustly and aggressively.

The confrontation is appearing on the horizon again. They are beating the drums of the crusades again. In America, Britain, and France, they are beating the drums of the crusades, and they are raising the sound to disturb and terrorize us. In return, we will beat the drums of confrontation and raise our voice to terrorize and frighten them. We are capable of doing that.

Brothers, we are generally committed to the following: If they lean toward peace, then we will do the same. But what is taking place now is not a peace process. It is a surrender process, and the Arab masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf should wake up and understand this. The Arab situation now—I very much regret to say this, O youth, O men—is similar to an incident that happened by coincidence. We would like to cite the incident as a correct and exact example of the Arab situation. It is the situation of the blockaded Russian parliament, which is being shelled from time to time. Those inside the parliament must leave one by one with their hands raised and heads bowed, hoisting white flags and surrendering one by one.

The Russian parliament today in Moscow exemplifies exactly the Arab situation. The Arabs you hear signing agreements and negotiating, the peace process—all these are similar to the Russian parliament. The Arabs are like a fortress under siege. They are being shelled once in southern Lebanon, another time in central Lebanon, in the Beqa' valley, in Tunisia, in Libya, in Syria, and everywhere in the Arab homeland. The shelling resembles Yeltsin's tanks shelling the Russian parliament. This shelling asks the Arabs to surrender, or the shelling will resume. If no one surrenders, the shelling will resume. Arabs from Gaza and Jericho began to surrender like Khasbulatov and parliament members with him. An unconditional surrender.

Signing of agreements with Jordan, with Fatah, and with any Arab side is a mere surrender of Arabs one after another. But the difference between the Arab reality and the Russian parliament is that the latter has no power since democracy is a fabrication, as the Green Book says.

and is something to ridicule. Therefore the parliament has no other power save its democratic legitimacy because it was elected by the Russian people. But the Arabs are not compelled like the Russian parliament to surrender, because they have might—but they have not used it yet. Who compelled us to surrender? Have the enemy forces entered our capital cities? Have they occupied them? Have they destroyed our depots? Not at all!

They entered the capital of Germany, Berlin, and destroyed it. But it did not surrender until this very moment. Now, Germany is the fifth strongest state in the world. America fears Germany. The Fourth Reich is emerging. Why? Because the German will was not defeated and did not surrender. [passage omitted]

We are not against peace, but we cannot change geography. There is nothing called Israel in the geography of the world at all. All those reading geography throughout the world know that this is Palestine. We cannot change the name of Palestine and call it Israel; we do not recognize something called Israel. We have (?never) said that the problem is between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Not at all. We have always said that the problem is between the Arabs and the Zionist enemy.

Did we not say some 30 years ago at this place that Israel was a poisoned dagger that was driven in the heart of the Arab nation? We said the Arab nation and did not say the Palestinian people. That is to say that even if the Palestinian people solved their problem with the Israelis, the problem would not be solved with the Arab nation, because the poisoned dagger is still planted in the heart of the Arab nation. [passage omitted] The enemy, as a matter of fact, has more than 200 nuclear warheads with a 4000-mile range. Are they trained on Jericho? Is it logical for atomic bombs to be dropped on Jericho? They are trained on this place. They are trained on North Africa, and on the Nile Valley, on Egypt, on the Arabian Peninsula, on Iraq, on the Arab Maghreb; our problem has not been solved. What kind of peace is this? Is it logical that we should approve of a force hostile to us and recognize its existence while it possesses nuclear warheads? This is not directed at Yasir 'Arafat.

Yasir 'Arafat is free if he can solve his problem with the Israelis—the Palestinians and the Israelis [words indistinct] inside Palestine. It is possible that his problem can be solved. But what cannot be solved so easily is the problem of the Arab nation—its security and its future—with this hostile entity that possesses atomic power. [passage indistinct] Yesterday, an Arab—a former speaker of the Lebanese parliament—said something that is quite right. He said: This is a surrender. How do you accept surrender, O Arabs? Weep; those who are in Jordan, Palestine, the Arab Maghreb are supposed to weep because this is a surrender process, a humiliating and shameful surrender process. This is not from the moral point of view, but from the material point of view—it entails a danger to the Arab nation, a danger to our future at this place. This place may be hit by an Israeli nuclear warhead. Therefore, what kind of peace is this? Peace means the nuclear disarmament of the Israelis; all strategic weapons. Let the United Nations and the Security Council come and implement Chapter Seven. We challenge the Security Council to apply Chapter Seven to the Israelis. [audience applauds and cheers; unidentified person reads a poem] The Israelis themselves were astonished. They said: We did not expect that the Arabs would surrender so easily. The Israelis, O people, are astonished. They said: We expected to see what took place to happen in 100 years' time. [passage omitted]

The Jews are all now praying. Why? They say because this is a sign that God has given us triumph over the Arabs who have capitulated without resistance. [passage omitted]

A long time ago, from this place, when we were students, we expected that the Palestinians and the Israelis would come to an understanding with each other, and would establish one state—like South Africa and the blacks. [passage omitted]

Does this mean that the danger is eliminated? Not at all. The danger of the nuclear warheads which the Israelis have and the aircraft which reached Tunis after having taken off from Palestine make us reject any recognition of Israel until the danger is removed. [passage omitted] Let us declare that what is taking place now is an armistice between us and the enemy. We negotiate within this armistice. If the international community is capable of applying Chapter Seven on the Israelis—and this is impossible; we challenge the United Nations to apply Chapter Seven on the Israelis.

On orders from the Western powers it is forbidden to apply Chapter Seven on the Israelis; it is to be applied on Libya, Iraq, Somalia, and any other Arab country. As for the Israelis, it is forbidden to apply it to them, and this is a total undermining of the UN Charter. [passage omitted] But we say that we enact an armistice with the enemy. Within this armistice we try the strength of the international community—can it disarm the enemy? Can it guarantee for Libya that no nuclear missile will be launched against it from Tel Aviv? Not at all. Let them destroy these missiles like it did to the Iraqi missiles. When the entire world sees with its own eyes that the weapons of mass destruction that the Israelis have been destroyed, like those that Iraq had, then that will be a sign that the international will wanted peace.

Peace... Libya is forbidden to purchase even a rifle. Iraq is forbidden... [pauses] It is forbidden for any Arab state to acquire offensive weapons. As for the other side—the side which is hostile to the Arabs—it can possess nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. What peace is this? [passage indistinct] We shall not sign until we can secure our future.

You the youths have to understand this: Why do you, your children and grandchildren get married? There is no point in getting married because your children will be killed by the Israeli nuclear bombs. [audience chants slogans; unidentified person recites poetry]

It is true we are sitting on danger. You the youths, get ready to advance toward the coast, this is not your place. The coast is considered as the historical fortress. We will once again turn into garrisoned troops in front of the enemy in North Africa. Our grandfathers, like this, were the ones who set up the historical fortresses against enemies in the Arab Maghreb. Now, the time has come for their grandchildren to set up fortresses to face the enemies, the same enemy, once again. There, the Libyan coast will be fortified, and the sea will be brought down on land so that it becomes difficult to land on it. There, barbed wire, trenches, and obstacles will be set up in front of the enemy. There is the right place, you have to get ready to advance toward the coast to, first, occupy the historical fortress between al Jabal al Akhdar and Jabal al Nafusa, and second to take position in a line around the great man-made river in order to benefit from its water and defend it. The great man-made river is for the great Libyan people. [audience chants slogans]

If the water of these oases, O brothers, runs off underground, if your stream be some morning lost underground, who then can supply you with clear-flowing water? [Koranis verse] If water runs off underground in these oases, life will end. Our birth rate is four percent, this is a record figure, however, why do we multiply and have children in an isolated oasis that has no future? There on the Mediterranean Sea is the sea of civilizations and confrontations between the East and West and Islam and Christianity, between the invaders and those seeking freedom on their land. These hundreds thousands of the Arab and African brown forces in these oases should get ready to advance toward the coast, they will occupy the land around the great man-made river and entrench themselves in those trenches of those historical fortresses and [word indistinct] the enemies.

Libya's coast must not be tempting for an enemy, it must not be weak, and there must not be breaches in it through which the enemy can pass. The enemy must not get designs on it because this coast can be occupied and a landing could take place on it, just as landing was carried out on Somalia's coast. No, the enemy must know that landing on the Libyan coast is a historical adventure that might lead to the end of colonialism and imperialism.

The stance of Libya, its steadfastness, and its defense of its sovereignty and its self-defense, as well the defense of the right of all people to defend their sovereignty and their territories in order to manage their affairs in all freedom, is considered as a historical turning point. If Libya surrenders, freedom and sanctities of all peoples will be violated and all women and children in Africa, the Third World, and the Arab homeland will be exiled and the Arab nation will be eliminated.

As soon as Libya falls, the Israeli forces will advance to establish their state from North Africa to Iraq. You should not overlook the Zionist state plan—the plan of the Jewish state is not from the Nile to the Euphrates; it is from North Africa to Iraq. This is subject to the fall of both Iraq and Libya; Iraq has fallen, and they want Libya to fall. If Libya falls, the Israeli forces will advance through Egypt to North Africa. They will advance through Damascus toward Iraq. [passage omitted]

The democratic West applauded the killing of members of the Russian parliament. The democratic West applauded the murder of an entire parliament. Has the West any credibility left? Is there anyone who believes the words of the West? [passage omitted]

What we said 30 years ago at this place has become a reality. Therefore, what we are saying today will become a reality tomorrow. God willing, it will not be. I said that this place may be hit at any hour by Israeli nuclear missiles. Regrettably a day may come when this place may be hit by nuclear missiles. From this place I said that it was inevitable for the monarchy to fall and that it would fall. [applause] You all said with me—you who were with me—that the monarchy would fall and the feudalism and exploitation would fall. [applause] From this place, we said that the five American bases would forcibly depart from the Libyan soil. We said that in 1961.

Those who were in power used to laugh at us. They said: Poor man; he does not know that the duration of the agreement is 99 years, the agreement that the King signed with the Americans. America was to stay in Libya for 99 years. We witnessed on our orders the expulsion of the American bases and to hell with the 99 years and to hell with those who signed the agreement with the Americans. [applause] On that day, we said that the British forces would forcibly leave Libya, and the Libyan soil would be liberated from the British forces. They used to laugh. They said that America came to Libya after the independence of 1954, but Britain—o' fools—has been in Libya since the Second World War. It is everywhere in Libya. How can you get rid of Britain. How can Britain leave? Our members of parliament used to be nominated by Britain; our ministers used to be appointed by Britain; and the King was brought to Libya by Britain. Libya was opened to Britain; its forces used to come from everywhere by air and on the seas and land in Libya. [passage omitted] Then the day came when what we said here became a reality, and the British forces forcibly and defeated left with flags lowered and heads bowed. [audience applauds] [passage omitted]

Without your own strength no one will have mercy on you. Neither the United Nations nor the Security Council will have mercy on you. The Somali people are alone; all the Arab nations are spectators. The national resistance of the Somali people is the one that is compelling America to withdraw, and the American forces in order not to sustain more losses, should immediately withdraw from Somalia. All the occupation forces should withdraw from Somalia and affairs should be left for the Somalis. This is a mockery, and the Arab nation should feel ashamed if it has maintained silence. Every Arab ruler and everyone—even in Libya—who accepts what is going on in Somalia should be ashamed. This is a mockery; it is joke; it is shameful for any Arab ruler, the Arab nation, and the Arab League—it is shameful that

the Arab nation should accept what is going on in Somalia. What is going on in Somalia now is a flagrant occupation. [audience applauds] [passage omitted]

This party calls itself the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, and one of its main goals has been the establishment of unity. They do not say freedom, socialism, and unity, but unity, freedom, and socialism. We are urging this party, particularly the Ba'th Arab Socialists in Syria, to answer this historical question. If the secessionists managed 32 years ago to take Syria out of the UAR [United Arab Republic], why then would the Ba'th Arab party not restore the United Arab Republic? We are making our appeal from this historical place, which was the venue at which we endured torture for the sake of unity between Syria and Egypt, which was the cornerstone for our Arab unity, in the name of the angry and faithful masses, to our brother Hafiz al-Asad, to his comrades and all members of the Ba'th Arab Party in Syria, to erase the shameful act of secession, to condemn the secession, and end the secession by returning Syria to Egypt, and restoring unity once more.

Otherwise, what is the difference between those who took Syria out of the Union and the Ba'th Arab Party? Of course there should not be a comparison at all between the secessionists and the party which struggles for Arab unity. In order for it not be in the same cage as the secessionists are it should restore Arab unity. [passage omitted]

Egypt in al-Sadat's era led the Arab nation to recognition of the enemy, and regrettably this was despite the setting up of the front of steadfastness and resistance. Yasir 'Arafat was the strongest enemy of al-Sadat and the one who was attacking him most because he signed the stable David agreements or entered stable David. The Arab nation carried on and then went along Egypt's line. What they are doing today, what Yasir 'Arafat, the al-Fatah organization, and the Palestine liberation movement are doing, is upside down. They are now doing what al-Sadat was doing. Jordan, which boycotted Sadat, is now going along al-Sadat's line; Syria, and regrettably all the Arabs, are now going along the line of recognition of the enemy because Egypt opened this way. Thus, if Egypt could lead the Arab nation in defeat, it can regrettably lead it to defeat. If it led it to liberation, it can lead the Arab nation to liberation [as heard].

When Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir came and led us through the line of dignity, pride, resistance, and pan-Arabism and Arab unity, all the Arab nation from the Atlantic to the Gulf turned into 'Abd al-Nasir. [passage omitted]

When al-Sadat followed 'Abd al-Nasir, he led the Arab nation along the road of recognizing the enemy; regrettably the Arab nation proceeded along this road. If Husni Mubarak now leads the Arab nation in the direction of unity, I am sure that even the secessionists and those who are hostile to unity will forcibly go along the road of unity. Therefore, from this place we warmly extend congratulations to president Husni Mubarak, because we believe that the Egyptian people have no other choice but to elect Husni Mubarak—as a matter of fact there is no alternative at this stage, as far as we and the Egyptian people are concerned. We also support him; if there was a constitutional possibility for us to participate in the election we would cast our votes in favor of Husni Mubarak.

On this day we extend to him congratulations before the event and at the same time we charge him with this historic duty—to begin his new presidential life with a unionist-seeking project; I am sure he will succeed. But if he said that America and Israel and Europe were preventing us from this unity, then we should fight for our unity; fighting would be permitted and legitimate We prepared. [passage omitted]

Any united people cannot be defeated. In our hands we have a resolution that the Security Council does not have—we can die as martyrs, and this is something that the enemy fears. I would like to say to you that these are glorious days; the dearest days to ourselves. [passage omitted]

Anyway, what were we some 32 years ago? We were a bunch of feudal lords and notables: A bunch of vile and ignorant people used to rule us, oppressing the sons of this country. [passage indistinct] What was our life like? We were like a herd being shepherded by a banal and ignorant man [King Sannusi]. All the people were like this, it was oppressed by foreign powers, it was occupied by American and British colonists as well as Italian settlers and governed by feudal and ignorant lords and notables, who used to oppress and suppress the people. [passage omitted]

How was our life then, and what is the life of those who have now capitulated? They only live in order to eat and drink; donkeys also eat and drink, exactly like them! Those who have reportedly capitulated and sign more and more agreements, day in and day out, what are they signing? Are they signing the victory document?

How can we recognize a thing called Israel? What is Israel anyway? I would like to ask the United Nations to explain to me what does the word Israel mean? By Almighty God, it will not be able to do so! How can we then recognize such a thing. What is Israel anyway?

Please listen to this: Once matters are clear and wrongdoings are established, everything will become easier, death will be easy to accept, victory will be secured, people will unite; there will be no more cracks in our ranks and no one will ever laugh at us. This should be clear.

As for the comrades and their sons, when we meet we will talk like comrades. We do not want to mix that with what we say in our address at this place. This is because, in actual fact, this place is sacred and the comrades did not think that they would meet here following their dispersal. But as far as you are concerned—the youth, the masses, and these brown gigantic forces and these fearsome forces that plant fear in the hearts of the

enemy—you should be prepared to advance northwards—to the historic fortress, and to historic confrontation. Forward. [audience applauds]

Sudan

Government Denies Supporting Aidid 'Terrorist Groups'

EA0610114093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan Embassy to Kenya has denied the American allegations that Sudan has formed a tactic alliance with Aidid terrorist groups in Mogadishu. The embassy confirmed that what has been said by Madeleine Albright, the American ambassador to the UN, is baseless and aimed at Sudan's reputation.

The information counsellor at the embassy said that these allegations against Sudan reflect the failure of the American Administration in Somalia, pointing out that these allegations were said to cover their failure in reaching a peaceful settlement in Somalia.

The embassy asked the American Administration to prove and specify the said terrorist groups which they support in Somalia and the means of the alleged alliance. The embassy said that Sudan will not accept [the] baseless allegation. The embassy added that the American military interference in Somalia has complicated the situation there.

Demonstrations Seen as Start of 'Popular Uprising'

PM0710092793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 93 pp1, 4

['Uthman al-Mirghani and Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad reports: "Sudanese Security Forces Intervene To Disperse Demonstrations in Schools and Other Areas"]

[Text] London—Protest demonstrations continued in the Sudanese capital yesterday for the second consecutive day and, according to informed sources, have spread to the towns of Madani (in central Sudan) and 'Atbarah (in the north).

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that tumultuous demonstrations have been raging in most areas of Omdurman since yesterday morning, staged mainly by students with the participation of some other citizens and women as part of the protest campaign against living conditions and the fuel crisis which paralyzed traffic in the Sudanese capital.

The security forces used tear gas bombs against the demonstrators in Omdurman, and popular militia members were seen confronting the demonstrators and chasing them on motorcycles. Some sources spoke of injuries and arrest of some students.

The security forces closed some roads to prevent the demonstrators from advancing and managed to isolate the Omdurman al-Ahliyah school to prevent its students from joining the demonstrations in al-Thawrah area.

The Sudanese media yesterday carried statements by officials maintaining that the fuel crisis, which paralyzed movement in the capital, was a part of what they described as "an undeclared economic war against Sudan."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, described the demonstrations that started in the Sudanese capital as "the beginning of the popular uprising to get rid of the [National Islamic] Front regime, which has lost all justifications for existence with the collapse of all aspects of life. The civil war is more intense; education and health services have declined; movement has been paralyzed, with means of transport coming to a halt; famine and misery prevail in all Sudan's urban and rural areas, threatening even the capital of the country; work is at a standstill; there are no exports or imports; a dollar is now worth 320 pounds; the regime is isolated externally and internally; the Front has lost all credibility and its members are confused about foreign policy, with some saying that the United States should be fought and its ambassador killed and others willing to compromise, and with some supporting the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and others opposing and fighting it."

Al-Mirghani added: "All these signs reflect the seriousness of the regime's crisis and carry the seeds of its downfall. The demonstrations that have broken out mark the beginning of that process."

Al-Mirghani also said: "Lieutenant General al-Bashir has recently told the armed forces that we, the expatriate opposition, together with the United States were planning foreign military intervention to end his regime. Such claims will not deceive our armed forces, which have suffered killing, displacement, torture, and humiliation at their [the regime's] hands. We and our people regard the armed forces as our strong supporter who, in difficult times, sides with the uprisings and revolutions of our people."

He added: We do not invite foreign powers to our country. Our people taught other peoples how to bring down dictatorships when dictatorship was a feature of international politics and can do even better now that dictatorship is a rejected thing of the past.

In conclusions al-Mirghani said: "Popular uprising is continuing and, God willing, all the regular forces will join our heroic people. Fear of that has prompted the regime to try and spread rumors about foreign intervention in the hope of delaying the popular explosion."

Official Welcomes Visit by Former President Carter

EA0610202093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir, leader of the government delegation to the negotiations with the united faction of the rebel movement, has stated that the delegation has completed its preparations for a new round of negotiations and is awaiting a reply from the united faction. He added in a statement to AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that the new splits in the ranks of the rebellion would have little effect on the peace efforts. He said any agreement to be reached by the government delegation with the united faction would binding.

Mr. Ahmad Ibrahim al-Tahir welcomed the forthcoming visit of former American President Jimmy Carter to the country and his efforts to mediate between the government and the rebel movement to establish peace. He renewed the government's support for the IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] states' initiative, confirming the government's readiness to discuss peace issues with all the factions of the rebellion.

Al-Bashir on Oil Supply Crisis, Carter Initiative

EA0710103093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, chaired the regular meeting with media leaders at the Council of Ministers general secretariat this morning. In his speech Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir dealt with the current crisis in the supply of oil products. He said the government will strive to produce an integrated study in the light of this crisis in order to avert any repetition. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir added that Sudan is exposed to many crises because of the international circumstances surrounding it. He emphasized the need to provide all the facts to the citizens so as to deal with the reality of these crises. [passage omitted]

In his meeting today with the leaders of the mass and press media, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir dealt with the role of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in establishing peace in the country. He said: We have confirmed our support for this initiative. He lauded Carter's recent statements about the U.S. decision to add Sudan to the states which allegedly sponsor terrorism, in which he pointed out that the U.S. Administration does not possess any proof that convicts Sudan of terrorism. He said Sudan had extended an invitation to former American President Jimmy Carter to visit Sudan to discuss his initiative concerning the establishment of peace in the country.

Tunisia

Boulares Reelected Chamber of Deputies Speaker

LD0510183893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] During the session, Habib Boulares was reelected as speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. Mondher Zinaidi was reelected as first deputy speaker, and Hedia Karoui Chaouachi as second deputy speaker. [passage omitted]

Agreement on Radio, TV Cooperation Signed With PRC

LD0110230393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Fathi Houidi, secretary of state for information, and (Tong Zhang Rong), PRC vice minister for radio, film, and television, signed an agreement this morning on cooperation between the Tunisian radio and television enterprise and the Chinese radio and television corporation. The agreement was signed in the presence of the director general of the Tunisian radio and television enterprise and the Chinese ambassador in Tunis.

The agreement stipulates the exchange of radio and television educational and cultural programs and also programs on social and economic development in the two countries, increasing the exchange of information delegations from both countries in the audiovisual field in addition to encouraging the exchange of expertise.

The two sides also agreed to encourage joint production in the audiovisual field.

Fathi Houidi pointed out the role of the information media in enhancing familiarization of the march of development and the accomplishments in the two friendly countries, a role that is bound to contribute toward strengthening the bonds of friendship that link the two countries, and in intensifying bilateral exchanges. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Views Russian Events, Velayati Talks

LD0510104493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Excerpt] New York, 5 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has expressed his hope that lasting stability will prevail in Russia in the aftermath of yesterday's developments. In a statement to KUNA after meetings with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali here yesterday, he said that what has taken place in Russia is an internal affair. He said: We do not want to interfere in internal affairs, but all we hope for is lasting stability.

Regarding his meeting with Velayati, Shaykh Sabah said that their meeting was fruitful and useful, and that they discussed some of the problems that fishermen encounter between Kuwait and Iran. They agreed that a meeting should be held between interior ministry officials of the two countries to discuss those issues so as to prevent a recurrence.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described his meeting with Butrus-Ghali as a "protocol meeting," during which a large number of issues which concern Kuwait and the United Nations were discussed, including the border [with Iraq], UN Security Council resolutions, and Kuwait's contribution to the financing of the work of the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, UNIKOM. He said that an additional platoon of Bangladeshi forces is due to arrive in Kuwait soon to bolster the monitoring of the Kuwait-Iraq border, which is being assumed by the UNIKOM on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution. [passage omitted]

[Tehran IRNA in English at 0926 GMT on 5 October, in a related item datelined United Nations, New York, reports: "Officials from Iran and Kuwait will meet soon to discuss settlement of issues in connection with fishing in joint border waters in the Persian Gulf. The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister who is also foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Jabir al-Sabah raised the issue in a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday. Following the meeting, al-Sabah told a number of Arab reporters that his talk with Velayati was 'fraternal, useful and fruitful'.

["As for the recent arrest of a number of Iranian and Kuwaiti fishermen by border guards, he said the two countries decided to arrange a meeting between Interior Ministry officials of the two countries to prevent such cases in future. He also told reporters that matters of mutual interest as well as stability in the Persian Gulf were among other topics he discussed with Velayati.

["Some 10 Kuwaiti fishermen were arrested in mid-August on charges of illegally entering Iran's territorial waters."]

Minister OPEC Members Will Not Exceed Quotas

LD0510110593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] London, 5 Oct (KUNA)—In a newspaper interview published here today, Kuwaiti Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli ruled out that any OPEC country may exceed its quota. Al-Baghli informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the OPEC quota agreement was reached following the intervention of senior political leaders in several major member countries of the organization who issued directives leading to a satisfactory solution. This gave an assurance that OPEC countries will certainly abide by their fixed quotas for the next six months.

The Kuwaiti minister explained that his country will very soon begin to reduce its output to the level of its OPEC quota, on the basis of instructions from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, part of which reaffirmed that Kuwait will abide by its fixed quota of two million barrels a day.

In his interview, the Kuwaiti minister predicted that demand for OPEC oil will exceed the agreed ceiling of 24.5 million barrels a day, as the overall demand, including withdrawals from reserves, raised the production ceiling to between 25.7 and 26 million barrels a day.

Al-Baghli concluded by saying that the next OPEC ministerial meeting will be held at the end of next month and will not examine the ceiling or quota, only other routine topics.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Ambassador Highlights Fraternal Relations

LD0610204993 Riyadh SPA in English 1936 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 6, SPA—Egyptian Ambassador to the Kingdom Muhammad Fathi al-Shadli has highlighted the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In a statement to SPA on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of October war, al-Shadli said the leaders of the two countries are keen on enhancing bilateral relations.

No doubt cooperation between the two countries benefits the entire Arab nation, he noted.

The anniversary of October war will remain a source for so many military and political lessons and will stand as a witness for the regional and international influence of the Saudi-Egyptian relations, he added.

United Arab Emirates

Economic Boom Predicted After PLO-Israel Accord

NC0610165493 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 6 (AFP)—The Israeli-PLO deal for limited Palestinian autonomy will trigger an economic boom throughout the Middle East, a senior United Arab Emirates (UAE) official predicts.

"In the atmosphere of peace, economic and trade activity will boom and this will positively affect the Gulf itself," according to al-Hajj Bin-'Abdallah al-Muhayribi, the UAE's parliamentary speaker.

"In the atmosphere of security and freedom, overseas capital will also return to the Middle East and investments will double. Prosperity and progress will then prevail in the Middle East, which enjoys enormous resources."

Al-Muhayribi made his comments in the magazine of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, of which he is chairman. The article was obtained Wednesday [6 October] ahead of publication later this week.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have approved the agreement on limited autonomy for Palestinians starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho that was signed in Washington on September 13.

It was the first time a GCC official commented on the deal's possible benefits.

The six members—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE—are expected to contribute to an international aid package to rescue the Palestinian economy from 26 years of Israeli occupation.

At a meeting of the World Bank in Washington last month, Saudi Arabia pledged 100 million dollars toward a two-billion-dollar package for the Palestinians.

"I expect Gulf states to play a key role in cementing peace in the region in the short and long terms," said Yusuf Khalifah al-Yusuf, economics professor at the Emirates University.

"Do not forget, Gulf states were the biggest aid donors for the Palestinians and other Arabs. They will likely continue to play that role despite a sharp decline in their oil revenues."

GCC states have given fellow Arab League members more than 70 billion dollars over the past two decades, including around 2.5 billion dollars for the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But they stopped aid to the PLO which it accused of supporting Iraq in the 1991 Gulf war.

Officials have stressed economic recovery was vital for the success of the Israeli-PLO peace agreement, which will go into effect on October 13.

"Guaranteeing the success of the peace march in the region requires the creation of a right environment for economic development," al-Muhayribi said.

"Peace will become stronger and firmer when its roots begin to touch on the lives of the people in the concerned countries, which have suffered for a long time from wars and their high costs."

But al-Muhayribi said it would take time to forge a common Middle East market from the Arab and Israeli economies.

"The Palestinian-Israeli accord is just the beginning in the peace march, which should end with the signing of agreements covering everything," he said.

"We should realise that the way towards normalisation and economic merger is still long. In the current developments, at best we will not reach more than economic openness."

Besides the preliminary deal with the PLO, Israel has signed an agenda for peace with Jordan, but has so far obtained no tangible progress with the two remaining parties in the Middle East peace process—Syria and Lebanon.

Yemen

Saudi Arabia Requests Postponement of Border Talks

JN0610125593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The Yemeni news agency, SABA', has learned that the sixth session of the joint Yemeni-Saudi border committee, scheduled to be held in Riyadh on Saturday, 9 October 1993, has been postponed until further notice at the request of the Saudi brothers.

The two sides agreed during the fifth session held in Ta'izz 15-19 August 1993 to hold the sixth session in Riyadh (?on 9 October).

Qabus Cuts Visit Short Due to 'Differences'

JN0610134393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id cut short his Yemeni visit by one day and left on Monday [4 October] due to differences between the two main parties—the People's Congress Party led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Socialist Party led by Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid—on the constitutional amendments and power sharing between the two parties in their capacity as representatives of the northern and southern parts, which were united in May 1990. These differences

led to protocol problems on the visit, according to diplomatic sources in Sanaa and Aden.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Considers Return 'Soon'

PM0610115093 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2-3 Oct 93 p 4

[Interview with former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad by Jamil Hatmal in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hatmal] There has long been some talk about a studies center you intend to set up. Does that mean giving culture preference over politics or is it just that you despair of politics?

[Muhammad] I believe that Yemen and the entire region need such a center. The country needs it. The leaderships and institutions need research and studies to help them in making decisions. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] But your name was mentioned some time ago as a possible candidate for the post of prime minister and, later, as a Presidential Council member.

[Muhammad] Actually, I did not offer myself for leadership, and I did not ask the political leadership to give me any post. There were some initiatives by the political leadership in Yemen related to ideas for the post of prime minister or Presidential Council member. I believe that such suggestions, made every now and then, require more care and thought.

[Hatmal] In other words, such offers were made to you.

[Muhammad] There were offers, but they were made when one was more preoccupied with the issue of the studies center, not the Presidential Council.

[Hatmal] Does that mean that you might join the Presidential Council?

[Muhammad] The truth is that I still have not made a decision regarding joining the Presidential Council. If one day I feel that the national interest requires that, then I might. I feel sometimes that such an issue arises during a period of tension. I do not want my name to be used in the current conflict. All I care about is consolidation of national unity and some kind of understanding to enhance cooperation between the parties and the officials to strength national unity and safeguard Yemeni unity.

[Hatmal] By the way, it seems that your return to Sanaa has been delayed.

[Muhammad] I have not lost contact with Yemen since I left it. The links have continued since I left Yemen in 1990, be it with the political leadership, the parties, individuals, or the public through meetings and contacts from time to time. My link with the public, I feel, is like the link between a fish and the sea. So I could return at any time.

[Hatmal] Soon?

[Muhammad] I hope it will be soon. I am considering returning to Yemen in order to set up the center and announced it in Sanaa.

[Hatmal] You have not visited Yemen since 1990, not even secretly?

[Muhammad] I do not see the need for secret visits. Yemen is my country, and the Yemeni people are my kinfolk. I believe that when I consider making a visit it will be a public not a secret one. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] To go back to a previous question, do you want the center to play a political role in Yemen's domestic affairs?

[Muhammad] I do not contemplate turning the center into a party, and I do not want its activities to be political activities. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] It has been claimed that the center will have good ties with the Gulf states and that a part of the center's financing came from Gulf states' donations.

[Muhammad] This is the first time I have heard such talk. The truth is that in the early stages of the center's foundation I addressed messages—and I do not deny this—to the Arab kings and leaders asking for such aid to help set up the center. The first messages were sent to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid seeking aid in the early stages because later on the center would be able to depend on itself in cooperation with the Arab and international studies centers and also with international organizations.

[Hatmal] It has transpired that there was a positive response from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih but we have heard nothing about a response from Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid. Can one speak of good relations between you and him?

[Muhammad] There have recently been some contacts with brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. He studied the project and welcomed the idea, and he also underscored the aid issue in his capacity as vice president as well as YSP secretary general. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] Can one describe relations with al-Bid as good?

[Muhammad] I can actually say that I consider my relations with al-Bid, the party, and the Political Bureau to be good. Of course, as known, we did disagree in Aden and there were problems in 1986. I later said that we in the party were all responsible for what happened in November (January) 1986. After that, contacts were held with the YSP brothers and I met with a large number of them. These contacts were made through various channels. So we began a new era in support of national unity. This relationship with the YSP does not mean siding with the party against other Yemeni parties but rather siding with national unity and Yemeni unity. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] How would you describe your relations with the General People's Congress [GPC]?

[Muhammad] I consider my relations with the GPC to be good. I have ties with the GPC just as I have ties with the YSP, the Reform Party headed by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, and with the other parties and political forces in Yemen. [passage omitted]

[Hatmal] How do you view the idea of GPC and YSP unification?

[Muhammad] I have already said, even in a statement to the GPC paper AL-MITHAQ, that the circumstances are unfavorable for unification. Some called it unification while others called it merger. I believe that plurality should continue and should develop because that strengthens democracy in Yemen with the presence of opinion and counteropinion. [passage omitted]

I am in favor of finding a kind of understanding between the GPC and the YSP and a formula for future relations based on trust and a strategic concept of Yemen's future, but I must say that in the final analysis it is up to the GPC and the YSP. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, UN Special Commission Hold Further Talks

JN0610214293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq and the United Nations held further talks in Bagdhad today to promote the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687 banning Iraq from manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq's delegation was led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, while the UN's delegation was led by Special Commission Chairman Rolef Ekeus.

Over the past four days, 'Aziz and Ekeus, along with technical teams from both sides, have held a series of meetings to follow up on sessions held in Baghdad and New York.

Al-Sahhaf Meets Jordan's Crown Prince in New York

JN0610120193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] United Nations, 6 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf yesterday met with a number of foreign ministers and heads of delegations taking part in the 48th session of the UN General Assembly.

An INA correspondent in New York said that the foreign minister met with Le Mai, Vietnamese deputy foreign minister and head of the Vietnamese delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings, and discussed with him bilateral relations.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf yesterday also met separately with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Abdilkadir Shah al-Hamid [name as received], Tanzanian Foreign Minister Joseph Rwegasira, and Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov. The foreign minister discussed, during his meetings with the three ministers, bilateral cooperation and topics on the agenda of the 48th session UN General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also met in New York last night with Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan. The meeting, which took place after Prince Hasan delivered Jordan's speech at the UN General Assembly meeting, was attended by Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations, and Ambassador 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations.

The foreign minister yesterday attended a luncheon banquet held by UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali in honor of the heads of the delegations taking part in the General Assembly meetings.

The foreign minister also attended a dinner banquet held by Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Al Thani in honor of some Arab foreign ministers participating in the UN General Assembly meetings.

Culture Minister Meets With UNHCR Official

JN0610210593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today met with 'Abdallah Ba Bakir Sa'id, head of the United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR].

During the meeting, 'Abdallah Ba Bakir said he valued Iraq's cooperation with the world body. He added: Iraq has extended to me every possible cooperation and provided all conceivable facilities in all areas. Iraq is the only country in the region that has been at the forefront of countries that provide safe haven for refugees and aid them.

For his part, the minister affirmed Iraq's desire to continue to cooperate positively with the world body in all spheres.

Two Coup Attempts Against Saddam Said Foiled

JN0610145893 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0540 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] A senior Mosul University professor, speaking on condition of anonymity, has revealed that a group of retired Army officers, shaykhs, and figures from the Mosul and al-Ramadi Governorates led two coup attempts against Saddam's tyrant regime in August.

The first attempt was led by retired Major General Bashir al-Talib, an inhabitant of Mosul and the commander of the Republican Guards Brigade during 'Arif's rule. It was confirmed that Maj. Gen. Bashir al-Talib, along with six other officers, was executed by a firing squad after the regime's repressive forces discovered the attempt.

Outlining the second coup attempt, the professor said it was planned by key figures from the al-Jubur, al-'Ujaylat, and al-Dulaymi tribes, in addition to Arshad al-Zibari, the minister of state in the new Iraqi regime's cabinet. However, the criminal al-Zibari informed criminal Saddam of this attempt a few days before it occurred. Accordingly, scores of officers and leaders of those tribes were arrested, along with several henchmen of the regime. The professor added that 35 of them, including seven leading Ba'thist figures operating in the regime's agencies, have been executed. In the aftermath of these two coup attempts, the professor noted, the regime dispatched large numbers of Republican Guards forces to Mosul in anticipation of developments detrimental to the regime, which could happen as a result of the execution of several residents of the city.

It is to be recalled that two coup attempts masterminded by Army officers also took place in July. The attempts were aimed at toppling Saddam and his criminal gang.

Saddam Addresses Arab Teachers' Delegation

JN0610200093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received Mawlud Zayid al-Tabib, the secretary general of the Arab Teachers Union, and heads of the delegations taking part in the meetings of the Union's Central Council currently convening in Baghdad.

At the outset of the meeting, his excellency the leader president welcomed participants in the Union's Central Council meetings.

Afterward, Mawlud Zayid al-Tabib delivered a speech before his excellency the president, saying: While on the land of heroism, steadfastness, patience, and jihad, permit me, your excellency struggler president, to salute you on behalf of my colleagues, Arab teachers, to extend to you the greetings of free people to a free man, the greetings of men to a courageous man, the greetings of strugglers to a heroic struggler. It is a great honor to all of us within the Arab Teachers Union to come to Baghdad from all Arab states, defying the embargo and imperialism, to confirm, even in a token manner, our enormous love for steadfast and mujahid Iraq, which has taught the nation lessons in steadfastness and struggle, and which has also taught the nation that a price has to be paid if pride and dignity are to be safeguarded. We believe that this would have been impossible to achieve had not there been audacious men in this country, led by a great hero, such as Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. And here, we are meeting now on the land of heroism, which saw courageous heroes, such as Nebuchadnezzar, Saladin, and Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. Here, we are meeting to defy the embargo. We are pleased with this visit. All fraternal Arabs have come to Baghdad to see the soil of Iraq. They were surprised by the noble gesture extended to them through the reception being accorded to them by Saddam Husayn, the symbol of heroism, pride, and struggle. Your excellency the president, it is a gesture that is appreciated by all Arab teachers throughout Arab lands.

Then, several heads of delegations taking part in the Union's Central Council meetings delivered speeches before his excellency the president, commending the heroic stands of the great Iraqi people, as well as their confrontation of the forces of infidelity and tyranny in the world. They expressed their happiness over what they saw in Iraq, particularly since Iraq has coped with its ordeal, thanks to the enlightened thinking of his excellency the leader president, may God protect him. They expressed their admiration of the great accomplishments scored in Iraq, the accomplishments that can truly be deemed a source of pride to all Arabs, especially since they were scored under the circumstances of the unfair and hateful embargo.

Then, Mawlud Zayid al-Tabib, secretary general of the Arab Teachers Union, on behalf of the Union's General Secretariat and Arab teachers, decorated his excellency the leader president with the Arab Teacher's Medal in recognition of his excellency's role in promoting pan-Arab awareness, and also of the proud and lofty stand epitomized in the great battles of pride waged by our great people under his wise leadership.

The dedication of the medal goes as follows: In light of the heroic and courageous role His Excellency struggler President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has played, the General Secretariat of the Arab Teachers Union has decided to present you with the Arab Teacher's Medal in recognition of your efforts, which will not be forgotten by history, and which will also remain vivid in the memories of friends and enemies alike.

Afterward, his excellency the leader president, may God protect him, addressed the teachers' delegations, saying: Being with you here, I feel that I am with each and every Arab individual. This is because whenever a conscientious Arab individual reflects the nation's quest for survival, progress, faith, and action, he represents the whole nation, not out of compulsion, but on the basis of a faith-inspired formula grounded in the nation's common objectives.

His excellency the president added: Baghdad is your city, just as much as Tripoli, Tunis, Cairo, Damascus, and Beirut are your cities. To Iraqis, places in other Arab lands are of the same value as any Iraqi place. Many faithful and Muslim people, including the Arabs, have experienced confusion in their thinking, and sometimes in their conduct. This confusion might have produced a sort of contradiction between the humanitarian concept and role on the one hand, and the pan-Arab concept and role on the other. Some people have even thought that the Islamic role is opposed to the pan-Arab role, that the pan-Arab role is different from the Islamic role, or that there is a dichotomy between the spirit and the body of this nation. However, as a matter of fact, the most refined expression of our nation's humanitarianism, according to divine law, is what was revealed in the Holy Koran in terms of civilization, conduct, and role. God Almighty has chosen the Arabs to be the bearers of the message. It was a deliberate act meant to identify the leadership role assigned to Arabs. This was not only designed to effect reform and consummate the messages revealed to God's previous messengers and prophets. By so doing, God Almighty has not only chosen to honor the nation, but also to promote its traits and sentiments so that it may play a truly leading role in reviving the community to help it perform its humanitarian tasks in the way he deems fit.

His excellency the president said in no uncertain terms that if it had not been for the Iraqis firm roots in the nation's legacy and civilization, they would have been defeated. He noted that the decisive factor that has helped them to hold out, God willing, has been their spiritual and cultural strength, not to mention their strong feelings, faith, and certainty that their spiritual resources are derived from all bright chapters in the

nation's ancient and contemporary history. For, once he starts fighting, each and every Iraqi recalls the harshness of the posture of adversaries. But, at the same time, he recalls all your faces, all Arab faces, wherever they may be; he recalls each and every instance of Arab support for Baghdad.

His excellency the president went on to say: Since the Mongols conquered Iraq and other places in the Arab homeland, the Arab role has diminished. Likewise, the process of producing new models that nurture faith has been halted. Thus, our models in ancient history remained models vindicating faith, wisdom, virtue, and courage. I am here recalling events that took place more than 800 years ago. This status was renewed in the form of formulas indicative of similar potential in Egypt, Algeria, and elsewhere in the Arab homeland. Similarly, the Palestinian intifadah is a renewal of these models. However, these models lacked the continuity required to enable us to confront the acts of opponents and their mischief, as should be the case. This remained the case until your will, which I have already characterized, came about, along with the will of God, which must have desired that we go through all this. Thus, Baghdad has reestablished lines of communication with its roots. Consequently, it became visible to the Arabs. It is not rendered visible by the use of candles or lanterns of limited power.

His excellency the president addressed the participants in the Arab Teachers Union Central Council meetings, saying: While clasping the hands of your brothers in Baghdad, tell them that they would be sinful if they were to forget about the meaning Baghdad earned at the times it came into being and later. Remember that it is your duty to criticize Baghdad when it makes a mistake regarding the performance of responsibilities, which is the hallmark of Baghdad. You must do so when you reach firm convictions that your views are sound, and that they are the product of a collective action. Such criticism must seek to promote the word of God, faith, and pan-Arabism in Baghdad.

His excellency the leader president said that pan-Arabism, to us, does not reflect a prejudiced perspective toward mankind, or toward the self. It is a leading role indicative of a willingness to make sacrifices, and to offer models that could promote mankind, not through weakness, but through the role that could be played. Hence, we do not espouse an internationalist cause outside its familiar frameworks. We, indeed, believe that pan-Arabism, to us, must be faith-inspired. It should never run counter to any legitimate action or view in the world. It should be harmonious with such an action or such a view whenever faiths extend bridges to one another, and whenever such bridges of faith extend in a single direction. We promise you to continue, God willing, with the efforts to render Iraqis, thanks to their faith-inspired deeds, part of the nation and its spirit, rather than an entity separated from it. Such efforts, which are bound to produce certain deeds, should not make them feel ashamed whenever they meet any Arab.

His excellency the leader president added: It is God who grants success. We promise you that we will continue to behave as if you, after Almighty God, are watching everything we do.

Concluding his speech, his excellency the leader president prayed to Almighty God to protect the audience and the Arab nation from all mischief, and to promote its pride.

The reception ceremony was attended by comrade Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the party's Central Bureau of Professional and Popular Organizations, and Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

Rabin Returns; Tabah Readied for PLO Talks

TA0610132493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin returned from Egypt one hour ago. At Ben-Gurion Airport, he was received by Minister Yisra'el Qeysar, who had deputized for him.

Minister Qeysar said he had instructed the Ports Authority to prepare the Tabah border terminal for the Israel-PLO talks scheduled for next week, when a committee will discuss the Gaza-Jericho interim arrangement. The Israeli team will be headed by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] major general.

Health Minister Comments on Rabin-'Arafat Meeting

TA0610172693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1430 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon in the Tel Aviv studio by Menashe Raz—live]

[Excerpt] [Raz] Good evening Minister Ramon. Was the Cairo meeting the only tool to continue the momentum of negotiations with the PLO?

[Ramon] It definitely was, in view of the results. For almost a month, conversations were held and attempts were made to agree on how to continue the process and yet nothing definite was achieved.

As your correspondent Ehud Ya'ari has pointed out, the prime minister saw all that. Because we are committed to the agreement, because the timetable is tight and complicated, the prime minister initiated that meeting at which he submitted all his proposals. I am happy to say the other side accepted all these proposals, and the agreement, which was conceived at an impressive ceremony about a month ago, can now take off independently, along orderly channels.

[Raz] Minister Ramon, can we say that the natural candidate, the minister to head the liaison committee, is Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres?

[Ramon] I think we can say Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is the natural candidate. He was the one who signed in Washington the agreement of principles opposite Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], who did so on behalf of the PLO. I assume the final decision on this matter will be made in accordance with the rank of the parallel PLO official. The PLO still has to appoint its man, and it is expected to do so at the beginning of next week. When we receive the PLO names, the prime minister will decide on who is to head the liaison committee, which is the central, the most important committee.

[Raz] These meetings, which the Israeli public still views through its psychological inhibitions, have elicited various interpretations. After the meeting, 'Arafat spoke of the right of return, of Jerusalem. Has there been anything in this respect that we do not know?

[Ramon] No, there is nothing that is not known. Everything is explicit, everything is included in signed agreements. None of the issues discussed by 'Arafat—and it is his prerogative to discuss them—is included in any paper, any agreement, any understanding. All we have is what was signed, reported, and made public knowledge.

We are talking about an interim agreement here. Any issue discussed by them, such as Jerusalem or the right of return, will be discussed only in the framework of the permanent status talks—if then—and at that time, we will explicitly state our stands. There will be absolutely no right of return for the 1948 refugees. No refugee will return to live in the sovereign State of Israel. Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty. These are our stands. These are the stands of the Government of Israel, and these are the stands the Israeli delegation will present at the permanent status negotiations in about three years. [passage omitted]

Peres Discusses Implementation of Peace Treaty

TA0710064193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has pledged the peace process will not stop until the accord with the PLO is transformed from a signed piece of paper to an on-the-ground reality. The foreign minister made the statement during a speech in Lisbon before a meeting of the Socialist International.

He said he was hopeful that a peace agreement would soon be reached with Jordan, which would then join Israel and the Palestinians in a three-sided economic agreement, a triangle between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians in the territories.

Rabin Comments on Loan Guarantees, Cooperation

TA0610145393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Oct 93 p B2

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Hemi Shalev on 5 October; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Shalev] The U.S. Administration has decided to deduct more than $400 million from next year's loan guarantees. There are reports about "hard feelings" among Israeli circles in Washington. What is your reaction?

[Rabin] I want to refresh our memories. When the struggle over the loan guarantees started during the tenure of the Likud government, efforts were directed at Congress, hoping it would force the Bush administration to grant the loan guarantees. The Likud government gave Congress two guarantees. One refers to what is known as fungibility. Congressmen argued that they were unwilling to allocate funds to the territories, and since money is blind to the Green Line, Israel would use it for building projects in the territories. Therefore Israel has

agreed that any sum of money used in the territories be deducted from the loan guarantees.

The second thing the Shamir government agreed to—and this is an exceptional thing in the United States—is that we will pay the scoring costs, which is the insurance payments for the loan guarantees in case we cannot repay the entire sum. The scoring costs of all loans granted by the U.S. Government are paid by the Americans. The Shamir government, in its eagerness to receive Congressional support, promised that this clause will not cost the American taxpayer even one dollar.

When I entered office as prime minister and launched talks with the U.S. Administration last August I could not change anything, neither in terms of deductions for sums spent on building projects in the territories—which are on a much smaller scale than they would have been had the Likud remained in power— nor in terms of the scoring costs, because Congress insisted on this point.

Regarding the 1993 fiscal year, we have already received the $2 billion. All the sums spent in the territories up to 1 October 1992 have been erased from the deduction account; only the sums spent during the 1993 U.S. fiscal year are deductible. All this is the legacy of the previous government, and I knew that this was going to be the case. I do not know, therefore, why there are people who have hard feelings about it. This is part of the agreement, it passed U.S. legislation, and it is binding.

[Shalev] The U.S. Administration still has maneuvering room here.

[Rabin] We got together and worked out a mechanism for calculating the expenditures in the territories. Preparatory work was carried out in the last few weeks to determine the sum. The Americans have tried to meet us halfway in deciding what is fungible and what is not. Roads, for example, which serve the entire population of the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria. The Americans have not formally recognized the unification of Jerusalem, and we have found a solution to this problem as well. I am not concerned about this issue. So what if U.S. funds will not reach every place.

[Shalev] What changes have taken place in Israeli-U.S. relations following the agreement with the PLO? Has the strategic cooperation been tightened?

[Rabin] We have received several things that are not even related to the agreement with the Palestinians, things agreed on by Bush and myself and later approved by Clinton. For example, we have greatly increased the drawdown (transference of U.S. Army surpluses to Israel). Following this agreement we received in September 24 Apache helicopters free of charge, as well as other things I do not want to specify. We have also increased the volume of ammunition prepositioned in Israel for the U.S. Army. We will probably be able to use this ammunition during crisis situations. All this was done in the framework of the understanding with the Clinton administration regarding the need to preserve Israel's qualitative edge and to tighten our strategic cooperation. We are also in the process of introducing some structural changes in our strategic cooperation.

All this, however, has nothing to do with the agreement with the Palestinians, and the reason for this is simple: Israel's defense policy is aimed at providing an answer to two main threats. One is the threat to Israel's existence and security. Such a threat can emanate from the direction of one or more armies of the Arab countries, and perhaps even from the direction of some other Islamic state at a later stage. The second threat is that posed to the personal security of Israeli citizens by terrorist attacks from Lebanon on our northern settlements, and by various forms of Palestinian terrorism both in the territories and beyond the borders. The bulk of our defense budget is not invested for the purpose of thwarting this second threat. We do not have to use F-16's, F-15's, Apache helicopters, or Merkava tanks against a threat on the Palestinian front. The Palestinians never constituted, nor will they ever constitute a danger to Israel's existence.

The agreement with the Palestinians was reached in direct talks. The Americans are helping us to implement the agreement. They activated all their fund raising apparatus to help the Palestinians, so that we will not have to bear all the load. I hope that in due course this agreement will enable us to decrease the forces allocated for and the costs involved in routine security duties. [passage omitted]

Rabin Should 'Set Pace' of Peace Process

TA0610162893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Oct 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Rabin Now"]

[Text] The argument about how and why Rabin ultimately decided in favor of an agreement with the PLO can make way to more important issues. We may never know the answer (Was he dragged into it or was he just waiting for the right moment?). Other questions (How reconciled was he with it?) are beginning to bore. The issue now is Rabin. His special influence on the public will continue to make him the main leader, or the main hinderer, of the new move yet for a long time. How should we treat him from now on?

It is wrong to think that now that an agreement has been attained everything will evolve smoothly in the wake of an inevitable historic development. A lot will continue to hinge on the positions of the leaders on both sides. For example, Rabin will be the man who will affect the rate of progress with Syria. No less than al-Asad, and perhaps even more so, he will decide when to give the sign to start dealing with the Golan Heights. He will set the pace of the negotiations on the expansion of Palestinian rule to other areas in the West Bank.

Those who thought Rabin was the most effective tool to sell the public on painful agreements with the Arabs must

now think very seriously whether to accept his status as the national pacemaker in the future. Those who supported Rabin—because of his special attributes and despite some of his limitations—as a condition for returning Labor to power, need to come to terms with the fact that he must be given free rein to decide on the use of those attributes in determining the future chain of events.

It is not that simple to come to terms with a prime minister holding such a status on such a complex issue. There are signs that following the big step he took he is now taking a small step back. There is no doubt that he perceives negotiations with Syria as overly premature, and not just because al-Asad has not emitted the right signals. It seems that if al-Asad were to agree today to a full peace, Rabin would regard it as a real trouble. He believes time is needed now to consolidate the accords with the Palestinians and for the Israeli public to digest the big turnabout.

One could come up with quite convincing arguments in favor of a different approach. Such argument would look nice on paper, but who would see them through the tortuous course of the political establishment and Israeli public opinion if they are not backed by Rabin? One may definitely argue that this period of public openness (some would say apathy) to the revolutionary change toward the PLO should be used to deal with the Syrian question.

According to persistent rumors, that is exactly what Shim'on Peres and his men are doing now. They are working on "The PLO Trick 2" vis-a-vis Damascus, and no less so, vis-a-vis Rabin. Peres has proved his deftness at using his international diplomatic network to pull rabbits out of the hat and confront Rabin with faits accomplis. Rumors and innuendoes point to a similar effort in various capitals (and in the UN General Assembly recently) to put together an agreement package with Syria.

However tempting it may sound, especially in the wake of the initial success with the PLO, one had better be wary about such a possisbility if it is not fully coordinated with the prime minister. Only an idiot will believe that days of tense relations between the two men are over.

For example, had it been up to Rabin he would not have pushed the foreign minister to be entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the man who twice within a period of three weeks shook hands with prominent figures in the presence of President Clinton at the White House lawn. In interviews in the United States, he spoke in more far-reaching terms than Rabin, almost provocatively, about the extent of the concessions to Syria ("We will welcome al-Asad as we greeted al-Sadat").

Peres deserves infinite praise for the Oslo agreement. However, politically speaking, Rabin is the leader. If Peres does not watch his moves and is blinded by his previous success, instead of peace with Syria he will get yet another round of fighting with Rabin.

The next six months will not be a simple trial period. It should be allowed to evolve at a pace the prime minister can live with. What is more, the word time has acquired a new meaning in the Israeli-Arab context. Once we used to conduct futile arguments as to whether time was running against us or for us. That question has now been settled. Had Labor behaved this year as if it had all the time in the world, as it did during previous terms in power, we would not be getting 'Arafat in Gaza and Jericho.

A timetable has been set for a transition to a new and complex reality. This came about a long process of gentle persuasion. The process is not yet over, and calls for nurturing and delicate handling. The man who enabled the turnabout (in all senses of the word) is also the man who should be allowed to guide it according to his gut feeling, even if he has butterflies in his stomach. Although events have a force and dynamic of their own, the electoral asset known as Rabin has the power to curb it or accelerate it. For some time, albeit not unlimited, the right thing to do (especially because there is no other choice) will be to let him act according to his own internal clock.

No one knows how this clock will tick. Who would have believed it? Even before the sweat dried on his hand, he was off today to hold another meeting with 'Arafat.

'Interim Government' Operating in Gaza Described

TA0610182293

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 6 October on pages 2, 3, and 14 of its HOTAM supplement carries a 6,000-word report by 'Oded Lifshitz titled "Gaza's Interim Government."

"As things stand today, the most senior political leader in the Gaza Strip is not the 74-year-old Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, but 31-year-old Sami Abu-Samahdanah, a gentle and charismatic young man, who spent nine years in Israeli prisons and was released less than a year ago. Abu-Samhdanah is the head of the team at PLO House in Gaza acting as a transitional interim government in the Gaza Strip. This team will implement the Gaza First plan, but it is not yet clear how long it will remain active. Other activists may come from Tunis and, if there are no delays, elections will be held next year.

"Delegation House, the equivalent or a branch of Faysal al- Husayni's Orient House in East Jerusalem, was set up about six months ago in Gaza. Sami was placed at the head of a young team and assigned the job of assisting the Palestinian delegation."

Lifshitz notes that the change in the status of Delegation House "became evident after the signing ceremony in Washington on 13 September, when it changed its name to PLO House. Control over the Gaza Strip and representation of the local population toward the Israeli authorities shifted from the delegation members to the PLO House team. The shift included Fatah's takeover of

the PLO: the team is made up exclusively of Fatah activists, who simultaneously lead the PLO and Fatah.

"Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and other delegates, such as attorney Furayh Abu-Middyan and Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, have not tendered their resignation or been deposed. They have been shifted aside. 'We are not in the habit of deposing people,' Abu-Samahdanah says smilingly."

"There is no confrontation between the new rulers and the old- time delegates. Quite the contrary, the young men are friendly with them, consult them, and treat them respectfully; the kind of respect reserved for retired leaders."

"The PLO House team is made up of some 30 men aged 30 to 40. Most of them are Fatah activists who have spent time in Israeli prisons. Some of them were detained before the intifadah, and others during it. The admission ticket to the team is five years in an Israeli prison, but the average is 10 years, either consecutive or accumulative. All of them finished high school, but most of them did not graduate from university because they were in prison.

"They love to say that they are 'Israel Prison Service graduates' or that they 'studied in the universities of Nafha and Qezi'ot.' This gives them credit. They feel they have suffered a great deal and are now getting what they deserve. Most of them speak Hebrew and are proud of the fact that they know Israelis well and closely. They swear that despite the struggle and the time spent in prison they harbor no hatred toward Israel and the Jews. They all support 'Arafat and recognize his leadership and authority; all of them enthusiastically support the agreement of principles and the peace."

Abu-Samahdanah says he is the "temporary acting head" of the PLO House team, and that it is not yet known who the permanent head will be. He has been doing the job for the past six months, since the institution was founded. He says he was appointed "by the PLO. There was no formal process, but the appointment reflects the wishes of the comrades here." Of the 30 activists, six actually work in PLO House. Their main task is to impart information. "We all go out to the field and explain to people what the agreement is about, how it can be promoted, what is expected to happen soon, and what its limitations are. We have been holding rallies, assemblies, and celebrations, and we have been handing out leaflets."

He cites one such leaflet, which included the following instructions:

"1. All Fatah splinter groups will operate under one name, Fatah. Splinter groups and organizations, such as the popular army and others, will be abolished.

"2. The only military arm will be the Fatah Hawks.

"3. The political committees will continue to operate."

Abu-Samahdanah talks about the "warm relations" with Dr. 'Abd-al- Shafi and other Palestinian delegates. Asked whether they have any differences with them, he says: "It is not exactly differences of opinion. They have done their job."

Another member is Sufiyan Muhammad Abu-Zayda, the spokesman of PLO House and the man in charge of information. He says he was promised the job while he was still in jail, "perhaps because I was the spokesman of the Palestinian detainees in prison in Gaza, Ashqelon, Nafha, and Qezi'ot." Asked what is the role of PLO House, Abu-Zayda says: "We coordinate between PLO headquarters in Tunis, Egypt, and Jordan, and the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. At this stage, our contacts with the Israeli authorities are limited to everyday issues. Prior to the signing ceremony in Washington, the Israeli Army was apprehensive about violent confrontations between supporters and opponents of the agreement and was contemplating a curfew to preempt riots. We were summoned to a meeting, and we proposed not to impose a curfew because of the political implications of such a move."

Abu-Zayda elaborates on their daily activities. "We are busy getting ready for the transfer of power. Our main representation is located at Orient House and Faysal-al-Husayni's Palestinian Studies Center in East Jerusalem. There are experts there who are just as good as those at the Technion in Haifa and at Aharon Yariv's Center for Strategic Studies. Since after the Madrid conference they have been drafting detailed plans for a port in Gaza, access roads from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, etc. At this stage the plans are still secret. We have set up teams to deal with health, education, and transportation—subjects that the Israelis wanted us to take over even before the Oslo agreement."

Asked what will happen when PLO men come from Tunis and other places, Abu-Zayda replies: "Since the Madrid conference, the PLO has been operating a peace desk made up of 'Arafat, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Nabil Sha'th, and others. They received reports from and issued instructions to the delegation. On every issue—police, health, and education—there is a team in Tunis appointed by 'Arafat, and our own team running affairs here in the field. Both teams will coordinate their activities until the time comes to merge. The duplication and complications emerged because the Madrid delegation was composed in accordance with the restrictions imposed by Israel."

Fifty-year-old Ibrahim Yusuf Muhanna, "the man slated to become chief of the Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip," stands out in the PLO House team. "He is not that young, he did not serve time in prison, but was nevertheless chosen to a senior and sensitive position. Apparently, professional and political considerations played a role in his case. Muhanna, member of a well-known and respected family, was the officer in charge of the Palestinian policemen in the Gaza District from 1979 to 1988. He is professional, known well to Israel Police officers, a fact that can help cooperation between the two forces and allay fears in Israel."

Asked how the Palestinian police force will operate, Muhanna says: "If Palestine Liberation Army troops come from the outside, they will serve as a national guard or a central security unit. They will see to security in the borders and the personal safety of important officials." He notes that 'Arafat ordered him to recruit 3,000 policemen in the Gaza Strip. Forty-four lawyers, six engineers, and three physicians will soon undergo training at the police academy in Cairo and given the rank of inspector. "They will work in their trade, but do regular police work such as patrols, operations, investigations, administrative and support work. Some lawyers may be appointed police prosecutors.

"The law that was in effect in Palestine in 1936, which is the basis of Israel's law, will be in effect in the autonomy. Egyptian and other laws will no longer be in effect. There are plans to appoint judges and other legal officials."

Muhanna notes he has held "initial" contacts with Israel Police. "We have met, and I was given a permit to move freely to the West Bank and abroad, just like the members of the peace delegation."

Noting that 11,000 candidates have registered so far for the 3,000-man police force, he says the ones who will be selected are "those who have the personal qualifications to be bona fide policemen; people who support peace, are law abiding, and will be loyal to the future Palestinian government." He notes that the process of sorting through so many candidates is awesome. "We have teams in every town, village, and refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. They know the local population and can determine who is suitable. I am being assisted by Musa 'Abd-al-Nabi, who will in the future be the police's spokesman." Asked whether he will recruit all the policemen who quit at the beginning of the intifadah, Muhanna says: "We will recruit all those who meet the qualifications I listed." Asked where the money to pay for wages and other expenses will come from, he says: "We have drafted a wage scale up to the rank of commander, but it has not yet been approved by 'Arafat. We have the uniforms and the money, and as soon as 'Arafat gives his approval we will publicize all the details." To the question of who will coordinate between the police force in the Gaza Strip and the force in the West Bank, he replies: "Only one Palestinian police force will be established, and its structure will be determined by PLO headquarters." As for cooperation with Israel Police during the autonomy period, Muhanna says: "We will either work together in the field or through liaison officers. I know your police officers and they know me, and I am in favor of working together."

Musa 'Abd-al-Nabi notes that the 13 years he spent in jail are part of his qualifications for the job of spokesman. Asked what will happen to settlers in the Qatif Bloc when the autonomy is established, 'Abd-al-Nabi says: "We will meticulously uphold the security of our neighbors. As I see it, they may take Palestinian citizenship and live in the Palestinian state that will be founded after the autonomy. I believe we can have good neighborly relations with the Israelis, and we are working hard to attain such a future." 'Abd-al-Nabi believes a key point is "to release many Palestinian detainees who support peace, have a position in the community, and can influence public opinion in favor of peace." Asked whether the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees who were allowed to return to Israel recently have been disrupting the peace process, he says: "No. We are not ashamed to say that we have learned a great deal from the Israelis about democracy and we are letting everybody express their views." Asked whether the Palestinian police force will be able to cope with the opponents of peace, he says: "We will deal with law breakers as prescribed by law: arrest, charges, trial, and sentencing. The police force we will establish will not oppress the people, but will provide them security."

Four Injured in Gaza Clashes 6 Oct

TA0710064593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] In the territories, four Palestinians have been wounded in clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The violence took place late yesterday afternoon on the al-Tufah neighborhood of Gaza City. The Palestinians were protesting the death in Gaza Tuesday [5 October] of a wanted Palestinian terrorist from the Fatah movement who was shot by Israeli soldiers. When troops arrived on the scene, the youths began throwing stones and heavy objects. Soldiers then responded by firing plastic bullets. Four of the protesters were wounded, two lightly and two moderately.

Prince Meets UN, Arab League Chiefs in New York

JN0610170293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] At the UN headquarters in New York, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, who asked him to convey his greetings to His Majesty King Husayn. They discussed UN and other efforts to promote Middle East stability.

His highness also met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Arab League secretary general. They reviewed the Middle East peace process, and intra-Arab reconciliation efforts.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that, as well as speaking for Jordan, yesterday's UN address by Prince Hasan echoed the Arab League's position, especially regarding the questions of Jerusalem, the refugees, and a comprehensive settlement. He called the speech admirable and enlightened.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, speaking to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, said that Jordan sets an example in its quest for a general and fair Middle East settlement.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he was optimistic over the prospect of intra-Arab reconciliation. He noted that 13 Arab heads of state have reacted positively to his call for reconciliation and that he expected further such responses.

He thought it unlikely that Arab-Israeli negotiations could be held before intra-Arab reconciliation. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid did not rule out an Arab summit, but said a decision on that will have to come from Arab kings and heads of state.

Al-Hasan Meets PLO's Qaddumi, Others in New York

JN0610142793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, today on the sidelines of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. During the meeting, the two discussed recent developments in the Arab and international arenas and exchanged views on these developments.

Al-Hasan also met with the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Cape Verde, with whom he discussed developments in the peace process, a number of regional and international issues of common interest, bilateral relations, and the means to develop and reinforce these relations.

Talks Spokesman on Tripartite Working Group

JN0610102693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 25

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpts] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, media spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said that the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli working group, which was recently announced by U.S. President Bill Clinton, will be part of and not separate from the Jordanian-Israeli track of bilateral peace negotiations.

In an exclusive telephone interview with AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added: So far, neither the nature of this group's work nor the names of representatives of the three parties have been defined. However, we will soon be discussing this with the U.S. Administration.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said it was agreed that this group's duty is to discuss economic cooperation, assist Jordan in polarizing foreign investment in the region, and enable it to reduce its foreign debts burden. He noted, however, that this group's duty is not to negotiate economic issues. The negotiating process is the responsibility only of the two parties within the Jordanian-Israeli track. [passage omitted]

Regarding Jordanian debts to the United States, which amount to approximately $1 billion, $380 million of which are military debts, and the possibility of canceling these debts based on the U.S. president's statements, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: The picture is not yet clear, but negotiations will continue with the U.S. Administration on this issue. However, we should take into consideration that the support which the U.S. president spoke frankly of in his speech cannot be realized overnight. It will take a long time to clarify matters and define the form and size of support whether in terms of Jordan's debts to the United States or to other countries. [passage omitted]

Official on Training Palestinians, New Services

JN0510113193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Oct 93 pp 32, 26

[Excerpts] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Engineer Radi Alkhas, director general of the Radio and Television Corporation, has said that the Jordanian Government places all its potentials at the disposal of the Palestinian brothers in the fields of radio and television. He added that the corporation is ready to train any number of Palestinian engineers and technicians in radio and television affairs, noting that coordination continues with the competent Palestinian sides to avoid any frequency interference with the Palestinian television in Gaza and Jericho.

Engineer Alkhas said that before the end of this year, citizens will be provided with five new cable networks in return for a monthly subscription that will not exceed 20 Jordanian dinars. These cable networks are the CNN, European Sports channel, a local entertainment channel produced by the Production Company, a French channel, and a British channel. He added that a number of engineers are currently visiting the United States to receive the transmission equipment and decoder devices for these stations. [passage omitted]

Engineer Alkhas also said that Jordan Radio will transmit its main program 24 hours a day as of 1 January 1994, and the same applies to the Holy Koran Radio. The classical music station will be increased to 17 hours, and the French program to four hours a day, he said.

Muslim Brotherhood Rejects 'Normalization' With Israel

JN0610122193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Oct 93 p 25

[Text] The information office of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a statement concerning the agreements and meetings with Israelis, stressing the Islamic characteristic of the Palestinian issue and the right of the Arabs and Muslims to demand the return of all the Palestinian land. The statement stressed the Muslim Brotherhood's rejection of peaceful solutions regardless of context or those involved.

The statement called for reviving jihad as the only honorable solution, stressing rejection of all forms of normalization with Israel, including the preludes to such normalization, including joint committees or official and unofficial meetings—whether announced or unannounced—on all levels and under any justification or pretext.

Peacekeepers Depart for UN Mission in Croatia

JN0510150193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] A group of Public Security forces left Amman for Croatia this morning to take part in the UN peacekeeping operation there.

Public Security Department Director Major General 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Adwan, who bade the group farewell, said that it is important for the group to keep the faith, shoulder its responsibilities, and perform its duties in a manner that helps to achieve its objectives. This performance of duties must also reflect the bright image of the Jordanian Public Security Service, he noted. He added: You are leaving to perform a humanitarian duty. Hence, you must live up to the expectations of his majesty the supreme commander. Demonstrate duty and discipline, which are your hallmark, to reflect the bright image of Jordan and its wise leadership.

Daily Criticizes Western Support for Yeltsin

JN0510100193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Oct 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Long Live Yeltsin, Down With Democracy!"]

[Text] When the historians write about this era in history, away from the terrorism of Western democracy, the claws of the new world order, and the racism of the civilized Western people, it will be easy for them to describe it as an era of the downfall of values and ethics, of slaughtering peoples and nations, and of killing democracy and people.

President Yeltsin's tanks were shelling representatives of the Russian peoples while Western television screens were showing the scene without any embarrassment about describing the Russian people's representatives as rebels and President Yeltsin as a democrat. In the meantime, shell fire was eating up the Parliament building and the killers' bullets were shedding the blood of the defenders of Parliament. The United States, the EC, Japan—Japan of the polite human being— and all the democratic regimes were applauding a president who was slaughtering his people's elected representatives and threatening them with death and liquidation unless they come out with their hands up, raising white flags from the rooms, halls, and corridors of the legislative authority building.

Had Yeltsin been inside the Parliament building and the Russian people's representatives been in the Kremlin, anything done against him would have been considered an aggression against civilization and democracy. Moreover, the first thing the Western countries would have done would be to issue a UN Security Council resolution imposing a land, sea, and air embargo on Russia in defense of Yeltsin's democracy and his killer soldiers' humaneness. They would thus prevent the Russian people from standing on their feet after the West had succeeded in subjugating them and placing them inside a Western cage where they are submissive, hungry, humiliated, and deprived of their will.

In the past, everything was done in secret. However, now that all values and ethics have fallen and all the falsehood, racism, and decadence of Western democracy have been exposed, the slaugtering of the Russian people's representatives is being aired live from inside the Parliament building and the Kremlin and from streets, alleys, and street corners exactly the way soccer matches are aired from green soccer pitches.

What is there left for Washington, London, Paris, Tokyo, Peking, Brussels, and the rest of the Western and non-Western capitals of the new world to lie to us about? Are the presidents of this or that capital still able to come out, with all confidence in their deception capability, to tell us that they demand democracy, are fighting against the enemies of this democracy, and are not allowing any tampering with it?

Do you recall how the West went mad when the first democratic experience succeeded in Algeria? Do you also realize the price the Algerian people are paying everyday because the Westerners had struck at their democracy? What will be the outcome of matters in Russia and elsewhere in light of this Western extremism in humilitating the world peoples and nations, slaughtering their democratic experiences, and interfering to protect all dictators under the pretext of safeguarding the democrats.

The honest, civilized Westerners are now shouting "Long live Yeltsin, down with democracy."

Al-Hariri Returns to Beirut From Damascus

NC0610125793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Political activity will intensify this week, especially after Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's return to Beirut from Damascus at noon today. In Damascus, he held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and senior Syrian officials on the peace talks and the results of his contacts in New York with U.S. officials led by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Phalangist Party's Sa'adah Views Internal Situation

PM0610131693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah by unidentified correspondent in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] Will the promised peace have direct effects on the internal situation in Lebanon?

[Sa'adah] Certainly. We pointed to that before the negotiations began. We pointed then—and we point now—to the need to bolster internal ranks to confront the talks' potential effects on the situation in Lebanon. What is proposed so far is plans and formulas which have not yet taken their final forms. I believe that everyone is awaiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region and the contacts he is going to make with those concerned with the Lebanese-Israeli track and the Syrian-Israeli track.

[AL-HAYAH] Has your recent visit to the president of the republic after a long period of boycott eased the severity of the opposition escalated by the Phalangist Party?

[Sa'adah] There is a difference between boycott and opposition. Our visit to the president of the republic has ended the boycott but not the opposition, whose causes still exist. On the contrary, it is growing by the day.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that the the state's performance is acceptable to Lebanese public opinion?

[Sa'adah] Not at all.

[AL-HAYAH] At what level?

[Sa'adah] Matters at all levels are not proceeding as they should do. The situation is not good at the services and economic levels. And if the people pinned their hopes on the government, it is because they thought it capable of solving the economic problems. What has happened is exactly the opposite. The economic crisis has worsened. The improvement in the pound's exchange rate in relation to the dollar is not enough. Commodity prices have risen substantially. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] There was a big clamor about Patriarch Sfayr's visit to Mount Lebanon and the reasons for its postponement. What is your opinion?

[Sa'adah] The patriarch's visit to al-Shuf is a pressing national necessity. So it should not be subject to political oneupmanship and local exploitation. Its aim is to speed up the evacuees' return. It should not be interpreted as siding with one political group against another. Details of this tour should have been studied before Minister Walid Junblatt's visit to Bkirki. At any rate, this issue is delicate and its results must be discussed between me and the patriarch during a visit in the near future. This is in addition to other issues which should be tackled in a clear and open manner in isolation from oneupmanship and exploitation. Bkirki is a national authority, and no one should allow himself to divert it from its collective national role to serve individuals and tendencies.

[AL-HAYAH] There is a peaceful reality on the Christian scene among its parties. Can reconciliation take place?

[Sa'adah] On the Christian scene there is peace and surrender to the realities. This situation cannot continue for long, because it is bound to further disgust many Christians and non-Christians, hence further emigration. What should be done is to work swiftly to bring about the security, political, and psychological conditions for emigrants' return. This situation cannot continue any longer, and a move must be made soon. We are in the process of preparing for this move in order to bring together the Christian intellectual, political, economic, and social elite to hold a meeting in which to tackle conditions rationally and away from emotions and demagogy, in order to adopt Christian stands based on common and unifying national principles.

[AL-HAYAH] Does that meeting include the forces forces with which you had and still have political disagreements?

[Sa'adah] When we say a meeting, it means that all parties should be included and that our call for it should not be like the state's call for reconciliation, which was limited to those seeking to reconcile.

[AL-HAYAH] It is noted that there is a media truce between the Phalangist Party and the "Lebanese Forces." Is it the result of endeavors?

[Sa'adah] There are no endeavors at all. For our part, we have for some time been focusing on tackling the party's conditions and reactivating its role. We hope everyone will do the same within their organizations and parties, as there is room for everyone on the Lebanese scene, and democratic competition is required and desirable. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol 6 Oct

NC0710073593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued the following statement:

An Islamic Resistance group attacked a Zionist patrol on the al-Tirah-Kunin road at 1700 yesterday. All the patrol members were killed or wounded during the one-hour clash.

Al-Shar' Addresses Mideast Seminar in Washington

JN0710095393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Washington—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has emphasized that Syria will not relinquish a single inch of the Golan Heights and that it is interested in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In a seminar organized by the Middle East Institute, and carried by Voice of America last night, al-Shar' said Syria will continue its serious efforts to establish a just peace on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace formula.

Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, al-Shar' said: Syria does not overestimate the value of this agreement because every article in it needs new negotiations. Nor does Syria underestimate the aftermath of that agreement.

Reacting to Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Israel needs time to digest the Israeli-Palestinian agreement before embarking on another peace agreement, the foreign minister said: This allegation aims at avoiding the seriousness that started in Madrid. It also aims at finding excuses to avoid the peace requirements and the comprehensive solution.

He added: Syria fears no blame. It is more serious in the quest for peace than those who deviated from Arab coordination and who, with their separate signing, opened doors in the region to all kinds of possibilities, of which the possibility of peace may have diminished.

Al-Shar' said his talks with Secretary Christopher were positive and demonstrated the United States' commitment to continue its serious sponsorship of the peace process.

In another development, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday met with Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. Congress Foreign Affairs Committee. Benjamin Gilman, the Committee vice chairman, and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syria's ambassador in Washington, attended.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around the peace process and ties between Syria and the United States. The foreign minister explained Syria's position on the separate Palestinian-Israeli agreement and underlined Syria's commitment to the peace process in accordance with the Madrid formula and the land-for-peace principle.

On his part, Lee Hamilton welcomed al-Shar's official visit to Washington and noted its importance in developing Syrian-U.S. relations. He voiced support for Syria's position on the principles for a just and comprehensive peace, stressing his country's—the United States'—commitment to continue its efforts to achieve that goal.

Party Leaders Address October War Anniversary Rally

'History Will Have No Mercy' on PLO

JN0610183193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1539 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Speech by Fayiz Isma'il, the secretary general of the Socialist Unionist Party and member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front, NPF, at a rally held by the Damascus Command Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on the 20th anniversary of the 6 October 1973 war at the Damascus University auditorium—live]

[Excerpts] Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, representative of the leader president; comrade members of the National and Regional Commands [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party]; brother members of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front; brothers and sisters: Pan-Arabists have always been judged against the yardstick of their commitment to the Arab identity of Palestine and their sacrifices for the sake of Palestine. In the Arab homeland, the Arab future has always been planned in view of the Palestine question. For the sake of Palestine, the Arabs have converged on major Arab policies. Through the Palestine question, organizations and individuals were classified as either pan-Arabists or isolationists. Through it, the Islam of Muslims has also been assessed. [passage omitted]

Palestine has never been closer to its representatives than to our Arab people in Syria. The PLO was born here. It grew up here. When it was past its initial stages, the PLO opted for other ways. Over 10 years ago, there was a major slide in the Palestine question. That was when the PLO called for independent Palestinian decisionmaking, thus renouncing Arabism and declaring its rejection of Arab intervention in the Palestine question. They rejected Arab fighters' participation on the pretext that they do not carry Palestinian identification cards. They rejected the calls of free Arabs who have watered the plains of Palestine with Arab blood. For over 10 years, they have been negotiating far away from militant Arabs. They offered concession after concession, until they were left with nothing to cede. This is because they have ceded Palestine. [passage omitted]

We in this militant country have never said no to a solution. Rather, we said no to a partial settlement. This is because a solution must be comprehensive and just. We have never said no to negotiations. Rather, we have said no to separate negotiations, because the question we are dealing with is a pan-Arab one. We are for a pan-Arab solution. We are against partial and separate settlements. We reject the selling of Palestine in return for a handful of the national soil; the Arab soil is too sacred to be tampered with. [passage omitted]

The PLO is no longer an organization, but what is left of an organization. It does not aim for liberation, but for a settlement. It does not aim for Palestine, but for Gaza

and Jericho first. Our utmost fear is for Gaza and Jericho to be first and last. Gaza and Jericho are not Palestine. Self-rule is not the state of Palestine. In the agreement, the land-for-peace slogan was not mentioned. Nor were Palestine, the Palestinian state, or Jerusalem. Under this agreement, the evacuees of 1967 will not return home. This is because Article 12 of the agreement only speaks of the return of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

Sisters, brothers: We do not criticize for the sake of criticism. Rather, we are motivated by concern, love, and pain. By God, we have not relinquished our right to the Palestinian soil. They did, without our knowledge. The people and history will have no mercy on the lax and defeatist ones. Al-Asad's Syria will remain the steadfast den of free Arabs. [passage omitted]

Qaddah Denigrates 'Unilateral' Solutions

JN0610190193 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1603 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Speech by Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and President al-Asad's representative, at a rally held by the Damascus Command Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party on the 20th anniversary of the 6 October 1973 war at the Damascus University auditorium—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] This glorious war was not independent of the people's struggle. It is one of the lofty peaks of this struggle, for in its arenas the will of the nation united and the people united as a real support and the strategic depth for the valiant fighters. A marvelous picture of love, commitment, cooperation, and courage was drawn. Consequently, there were good results and stunning victories that restored the nation's self-confidence and its confidence in its people. The nation confirmed that it possesses the requirements for survival and progress, placed the Arabs in an advanced cultural position, proved to the whole world the fairness of our cause and the legitimacy of our struggle, and opened the door wide to opportunities to achieve a just and comprehensive peace—a peace of justice and right, liberating all of the occupied Arab territory, and regaining all of the usurped rights.

In this glorious war, a marvelous picture of the nation's unity and solidarity was drawn, and Arab blood was generously shed in defense of the rights of the nation and to bolster common destiny and the sacredness of the objective.

It is the eternal law of Arab life and its road to manifest victory. No one—whoever he might be—should think that he will achieve victory without his brothers and that he will achieve his objectives without his nation. He is betting on a losing horse.

Comrades, brothers, masses of our unyielding people: The blessed Ramadan war has proven a basic fact embodied in rejecting occupation and resisting aggression. It is continuing, one way or another. It has not ended and will not end until it achieves its objectives of the liberation of territory and restoration of rights. This will be a starting point toward achieving peace, security, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Hence, the emergence of political action as one form of struggle. For, the peace battle that we are currently waging complements the October war of liberation. Had it not been for that war and its honorable results, it would not have been possible to wage the peace battle in the first place. Our objective has always been land, rights, and dignity. For these, we have waged all our battles and for these objectives was the October war. For these objectives, we have been calling for almost quarter of a century for achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region that rests on international legitimacy, liberates the land, and restores the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

It was in this context that Syria accepted the U.S. peace initiative that is based on implementing UN resolutions, thus opening the door to peace in the region. We have always called for a just and comprehensive peace. We rejected several initiatives to address the Arab-Israeli conflict because they ignored a comprehensive solution on all fronts. We also rejected private offers that concentrated on withdrawal from the Golan, and we cooperated with our Arab brothers involved in the peace process. This led to cooperation and coordination, in order to preserve Arab rights and out of our awareness that separate solutions will not result in the minimum level of rights for those who get involved in them. We have always warned of the dangers of falling into the trap of unilateral action. Unilateral action means taking on a certain party on its own, and this is the plan at the heart of Israel's strategy, since it achieves everything the Israelis want and does not give this lone Arab party anything except what the Israelis want.

Israel's purpose in signing an agreement with a Palestinian team was clear. Israel has achieved all that it wants in the context of the Palestine question. It is trying to make this agreement a bridge to cross into the Arab homeland. It is doing its best to call on the Arabs to lift their boycott and normalize relations under the pretext of reaching a solution to the Palestine question. This call, as leader President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] has emphasized, takes the Arabs lightly. For, how can the boycott be lifted and normalization be achieved while Israel still occupies their territory, and violates their rights, and millions of Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians are still displaced outside their homeland.

A comprehensive solution is the only guarantee to regain the occupied territories and restore the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. The conflict has never been a conflict between Israel and one Arab party. It has always been an Arab-Israeli conflict. We waged this conflict right from the very beginning for the sake of the occupied Arab territories in Palestine and for the people

of Palestine. So the question is not that of an agreement on this or that part, nor the signing of a separate agreement that concerns this or that party. The central question is a comprehensive pan-Arab issue whose basis is the Arab-Israeli conflict and whose core is the Palestine question. It is also an Arab problem that concerns all the Arabs and involves their existence and future.

Comrades and brothers: We want a just, comprehensive peace that rests on international legitimacy, and not a peace in which conditions are imposed, will is shackled, territory is occupied, and rights are usurped. Peace is a necessity for everybody, and not granted by one party to another. The leader of the nation, President al-Asad [applause], has asserted: We want peace, but we will not beg for it. If others do not want peace, we will have the same position as well.

Syria, under leader President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], which had the honor of fighting the October war of liberation and paving the road for liberation and peace, asserts the continuation of its struggle for peace until the achievement of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of our rights in full. Despite the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of the peace process and its maneuvers to abort this process, we will continue to work to achieve a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace. No peace shall be established at the expense of one inch of our territory, dignity, and the interests of our nation. [applause]

Developments have shown that al-Asad's Syria was a decisive, major factor in the battles of October. Current events and the facts of history also show that there will be no peace without Syria and that there can be no security and stability without Syria. The peace Syria wants is one that gives rights, security, and reassurance to everyone. But if this peace is similar to what Israel wants—having land and peace together—then this will not be accepted by Syria under any circumstances, as President Hafiz al-Asad has stated. [passage omitted]

Israeli 'Seriousness' Required for Talks to Resume

JN0710084893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Negotiations: A Means, Not An End," TISHRIN discusses in its editorial today the Middle East peace process after the end of 11 rounds of talks.

TISHRIN asserts that Israel is responsible for the stumbling of the Washington talks and is the reason why these talks may fail to achieve a genuine just and comprehensive peace. The paper adds: Israeli actions, which run contrary to peace and undermine its principles and requirements, confirm this fact. Israel does not conceal this when it affirms daily its rejection of withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, seeks to build further settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and demands that Jerusalem remain the eternal and united capital of the Zionist enemy. It also confirms this fact when it sends troops on search, storming, and suppression campaigns in the occupied territories; when it uses bullets and rockets to kill Palestinians and destroy their homes; and when it works on turning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into a big prison through acts of deprivation, sealing off, and siege.

TISHRIN says that abandoning these Israeli practices is no longer acceptable. It must be accompanied by a serious and clear stand on the issue of pushing forward the peace process. Israel's seriousness in this regard must be guaranteed before it [the peace process] resumes, and this is what Syria is emphasizing.

Bangladesh

Over 200,000 Workers To Work in Middle East

BK0610131893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Labor and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed the hope that despite numerous problems over 200,000 Bangladeshi workers will be recruited by different countries in the Middle East this year. Addressing newsmen in Dhaka today after returning from Bahrain and Qatar, the labor minister said that in 1991 about 140,000 Bangladeshi workers were employed in the Middle East, while in 1992 a total of about 180,000 workers were recruited. He said employers in the Middle East are keen to hire more workers from Bangladesh due to the honesty, efficiency, and dedication of Bangladeshi nationals.

Parliament Speaker Leads Delegation to Iran

BK0510161093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] An eight-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Speaker of the Parliament Sheikh Razzak Ali left Dhaka for Tehran today on a week-long visit to Iran. The delegation will exchange views with Iranian leaders on matters of mutual interest. They will also hold talks on the working of the parliaments in the two countries.

India

Editorial Evaluates Outcome of Rao Visit to Iran

BK0510135593 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 24 Sep 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Prime Minister Rao's Visit]

[Text] Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Iran can be described in many ways as successful and useful. The top leaders of the two countries met for the first time in a long time and exchanged views on matters of national and international importance to both countries. The importance of this, if seen in the context of emerging Asian awareness, becomes clear by itself. Our prime minister met in Tehran with Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and also addressed the Iranian parliament just before the end of his visit. This shows that Iran attached great importance to the prime minister's visit.

The leaders of the two countries signed two memorandums of understanding on transport and transit facilities and cooperation in science and technology. This may not be much in terms of political significance, but their symbolic importance is by no means insignificant in terms of expanding the scope of bilateral ties. Iran has abundant gas deposits, which their scientists believe can be used nonstop for 300 years. Iran wants to enter into some kind of arrangement with India in this regard. India, perhaps, has no objection, but this suggestion will be examined microscopically by our experts. In the meantime, however, Iran's one viewpoint is quite encouraging. India imports so much petroleum from Iran that the balance of trade between the two countries is tilted in favor of Iran. Iran wants to rectify this situation and correct this imbalance.

India and Iran are among the few ancient countries whose bilateral cooperation dates back over centuries. That is why, if economic and political ties between the two countries are spontaneous and strong, it will greatly contribute toward ending tensions in Asia. Hence, it is very satisfying to know that India has been successful in convincing Iran that solving the Indian Muslim population's problems is the responsibility of the Indian Government, and it will not be found lacking in fulfilling its duties. Similarly, the temple-mosque dispute would also be gradually resolved. India does not consider any world Islamic initiative on the issue to be appropriate. After understanding India's sensitivities, Iran's statement that the Kashmir issue should be settled peacefully and that it does not support spreading terrorism among other nations becomes significant. The prime minister has claimed that Iran supports India on the Kashmir issue. Only time will tell how true this claim is. One thing is clear, however. After this visit, Pakistan is going to face many difficulties including the Kashmir issue on the world Islamic agenda.

Tehran Said Favored Source of Natural Gas Supply

LD0610132493 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 6, IRNA—India has responded favourably to Iran's offer to supply huge quantities of natural gas. This follows the visit of a high-level Iranian team to India recently to supply gas at most competitive terms. An official spokesman told IRNA that India will accept the offer if the terms are good. "We are looking at the offer positively, very positively," the spokesman told IRNA.

According to the spokesman, an Indian delegation will leave for Iran next week to deliberate further on the offer. The delegation will be headed by E. A. S. Sharma, energy advisor for India's planning commission.

The spokesman said the first contacts in this regard was made when Indian petroleum minister, Satish Sharma, visited Tehran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Gholamreza Aqazadeh.

The spokesman further said that there were offers from Iran to even lay a sub-sea pipeline—from Iran to the Indian shores—in case an economical route is found. "We are keeping our options open," the spokesman said.

According to diplomatic sources, Iran's bid could outsmart Oman since Iran's gas reserves—20 trillion cubic metres—were huge as compared to that of Oman (500 billion cubic metres).

The overriding consideration for preferring Iran as a supply source was that Tehran is said to be ready to consider New Delhi's demand that the price of the gas be the sum of the gas price and pipeline charges.

Oman Oil Company, which has already signed a memorandum of agreement with the Indian Government, is insisting on relating the price of the delivered gas to the cost of the liquified natural gas indexed to crude oil.

"The Indian Government is looking at both options. This is basically to encourage competition," the spokesman said.

According to reports in the Indian media, Australia's Broken Hill Petroleum—seeing this mutual interest between India and Iran—has already submitted a proposal to the two governments for a U.S. dlrs. five billion offshore pipeline that will link Iran's gas reserves in Qeshm Islands in the Hormuz Straits to a landfall in India's Kutch region.

Zambian President Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK0510120693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The Zambian president, Mr. F.J.T. Chiluba, has said that his visit will further strengthen the strong and cordial relations that exist between India and Zambia. Talking to our correspondent at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] on his arrival on a four-day state visit, he said the relations will attain more dynamic dimensions during the visit. Mr. Chiluba is accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs and commerce and leader of the opposition and a high-level business delegation. During his first visit to India with election as president two years ago, Mr. Chiluba will have wide-ranging discussions with the president, prime minister, and other leaders. The two countries are likely to sign an agreement on air services and a protocol on cooperation to combat the narcotics trade.

The president of Zambia was received at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao. Several union ministers and high-ranking civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

CPI Condemns Yeltsin's 'Authoritarian Attitude'

BK0610125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The Communist Party of India [CPI] has strongly condemned what it described as the authoritarian attitude and actions of President Yeltsin against democracy. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the national executive of the party has said the action ordered by President Yeltsin to suppress political opponents with tanks and guns is a frontal attack on parliamentary institutions, democracy, and the rule of law.

Afghans, Pakistani Among 28 Killed in Kashmir

BK0710095693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 28 militants were killed yesterday in three different encounters with security forces. An army spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that 23 militants, including six Afghans and one Pakistani, were killed in an encounter at Bandipur area of Baramula district. An injured militant was arrested. In two other encounters, five militants have been killed in Srinagar and Badgam. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has also been seized.

Commentary Hails Charges Against BJP, Allies

BK0610064793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Commentry by T.S. Ramamoorthy, political commentator]

[Text] Exactly 10 months after the cataclysmic event at Ayodhya, the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has filed a charge sheet against leading lights of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] and Shiv Sena as well as against the officials concerned. They have been charged with criminal conspiracy and intentional destruction and defiling of a place of worship. On the basis of a large volume of evidence gathered from witnesses, documents, video cassettes, photographs, and media reports, the CBI claims to have established a case of preplanned conspiracy.

As could be expected, the BJP has characterized the charge as politically motivated. The willful destruction of the Ayodhya mosque has had serious consequences for the Indian polity. Its reverberations will be felt for a long time. In one fell stroke, it has alienated the minorities, undermined their confidence in the system, and damaged the country's reputation as a secular forward-looking nation. It is no surprise that the parties responsible for the desecration felt no sense of contrition over the heinous act. In fact, some of the leaders bloated [as heard] over it.

The BJP, which was in power in four states, took full advantage of its new-found political clout and attempted in aggressive assertion of its ideology. The BJP and its preceding incarnation the Jan Sangh have been canvassing clandestinely in the early years of independence and openly of late a theory which can best be summed up in the words of M.S. Golwalker. This high priest of Hindutva [Hinduism] said many years ago, quote, the non-Hindu people in Hindustan must adopt the Hindu culture and religion, must learn to respect and holding reverence Hindu religion, and must entertain no ideas but those of glorification of the Hindu race and culture,

unquote. This has been the kernel of the philosophy of the BJP and the VHP and the impulse of their actions.

The BJP, the VHP, and the Shiv Sena cannot be allowed to succeed in their aim, if India has to remain one piece. In the country today, language, music, art, architecture, and institutions are all blends of many strains and elements. Despite the immense diversities in India's heritage, there is an unmistakable character which stamps it as Indian. That is why people abroad who wish well by India are horrified when the BJP and others of its type speak of abolition of the previleges of the minorities or destruction of, what they perceive, to be symbols of tyranny of the past or generally demand a conformity with their own ideas of what India is. The entire agenda sounds dangeroulsy like a new addition of Nazism. The CBI charge sheet will possibly lead to a long and acrimonious legal battle. The BJP and others may try to gain mileage by misrepresenting the proceedings as political vendetta. The risk exists. But it is worth taking in the interest of India's future.

More on BJP Leaders in Temple-Mosque Case

BK0510160693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] today filed charge sheet against 40 accused in connection with the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya on the sixth of December last year. The accused include BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] President Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Shiv Sena Leader Mr. Balasaheb Thackeray, Mr. Kalyan Singh, Mr. Ashoke Singhal, Mr. Vinay Katiyar, Miss Uma Bharati, Sadved Uttam Bharat, Mr. Vishnu Hari Dalmia, Mr. Mureshwar Save, Mr. Pavan Kumar Pandey, Former Faizabad District Magistrate R.N. Srivastava and Former SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Mr. D.B. Ray.

The CBI spokesman said in New Delhi that the charge sheet filed in the special magistrate's court of Lucknow accused them of involvement in offenses of criminal conspiracy, intentional destruction and defiling of place of worship, criminal trespass, intimidation of public servants, and other offenses. The spokesman said that the charge sheet was filed against the more prominent persons who either participated in the conspiracy or were instrumental—directly or indirectly—in taking steps in achieving the objective of conspiracy which resulted in the demolition of the disputed structure. During the course of investigation by the CBI team, nearly 850 witnesses were examined and over 705 documents and 112 articles seized or collected. Besides video cassettes, photographs, published material, and media reports were carefully scrutinized and a large volume of evidence was collected. After detailed investigation and scrutiny of evidence, the CBI established a case of prior planning and conspiracy and taking of steps to achieve the objective of the conspiracy, the spokesman added.

Need for Replacement Aircraft Carrier Seen

BK0610002893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Sep 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Today, For Tomorrow"]

[Text] The Chief OF Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral L. Ramdas. has declared unequivocally that India has the design and the capability to produce, as well as the need for, an aircraft carrier to replace the soon to be retired INS [Indian Navy ship] Vikrant. After years of official indecision and reticence. Admiral Ramdas's statement is the first firm declaration of intent, policy, and between the lines, a suggestion for a new doctrine. The CNS has intimated that the indigenously designed, and built carrier is going to be for air defence. This is significant, especially since it suggests that the terms of deployment are likely to change in keeping with the forward deployment posture that the Indian Navy adopted during Admiral Ramdas's tenure.

Forward deployment, which entails longer duration and distances of exercises and manoeuvres, reflects an emergent self-confidence in the Indian Navy. This is a positive development, both for the fact that the navy is the least appreciated of the three Services, and that in tomorrow's world, the navy's role could well be amongst the most important for the nation and the region. It is the question of regional role that explains the importance of the replacement carrier. When the nation has not bothered about developing mid-air refuelling capabilities, that would enhance the range of its combat aircraft, it is left to naval aviation to provide the required firepower. Hence the navy's requirement for a replacement carrier must be met, otherwise the service will also face the prospect of its assets being stretched. A decision to build the carrier, after all the research has already been done, must be taken. And soon, for the simple reason that each carrier takes a number of years to construct.

Admiral Ramdas oversaw three vital developments in the Indian Navy during his tenure as the CNS. First, he declared that the navy already had the designs of a replacement carrier. Secondly, against much bureaucratic inertia, he pushed for training exercises with other navies. Misunderstood by many, exercises with other nations are very important, both for learning new skills, as well as for keeping abreast with developments in doctrines and strategies. The Indian Navy needed to get out of its brown water mindset, and it took Admiral Ramdas, the raider of Chittagong in 1971, to bring that about. Joint exercises must become a matter of routine, and not exception. Navies like that of Iran, Oman, Yemen and South Africa share common concerns with the Indian Navy, and must train together. And lastly, as CNS he saw the commissioning of the indigenously made Shalki class submarines. Crucial to modernising India's submarine fleet, these will be central to tomorrow's sea battles. And on the eve of his retirement, he has ensured that the Indian Navy is preparing for and thinking of the morrow, with confidence in its abilities.

Iron Ore Company Earns 1 Billion Rupee Profit

BK0610130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The public sector Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited earned a profit of over 100 crore rupees during 1992-93. The export-oriented company under the Ministry of Steel paid its maiden dividend of 19 crore rupees to the center recently.

Marine Products Export Reaches Record High

BK0610154493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The country's export of marine products touched an all- time high of 1,767 crore rupees during 1992-93. More than 2 lakh tons of seafood was exported mainly to Japan, Europe, and the United States during the period. In the first five months of the current year, about 65,000 tons of seafood worth 750 crore rupees was exported.

Iran

Transfer of Turkish Uranium to Iran Denied

LD0610204593 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] tehran, Oct 6, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Ala'ddin Borujerdi, told Turkish Ambassador Korumaz Haktanir here today afternoon that the Turkish media's allegation of transfer of uranium to Iran is a plot against the Islamic Republic and is designed to mar Terhan-Ankara relations.

Borujerdi announced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the intelligence office of that country to find out the aim of the conspiracy against Iran.

Haktanir said that he will convey the issue to the Turkish Government.

Spokesman Denies Oil Sales to Israel

LD0610204693 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today that the Islamic Republic will be glad to hear any progress in talks between Iraq and the United Nations.

Morteza Sarmadi told IRNA that Iran is determined to defuse tension in the Persian Gulf, and hopes that Iraq will want to make good on its mistakes and thereby prepare the regional situation for a return to normalcy.

He said that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs, Javad Zarif, would visit Baghdad in the next few weeks. He however, said that no progress has been made on the exchange of visits between other officials of the two countries.

Sarmadi brushed aside Western reports of sale of Iranian oil to the al-Quds [Jerusalem]-occupying regime and said the Islamic Republic does not have any relations with the illegitimate Zionist entity.

Zionist circles, he added, are trying to circulate such reports in view of Iran's firm stance against the recent PLO-Israeli accord.

Sarmadi dismissed the claims of Husni Mubarak of Egypt that Iran is providing financial assistance to the opponents of his regime, and called it an error on the part of Mubarak.

Iran, he said, does not interfere in Egypt's internal affairs, and Mubarak's unfounded claims are designed to cover up the inefficiency of Egyptian information agencies.

Sarmadi also said that the claim that incriminates Iran for buying enriched Uranium is totally unfounded. He added that the Foreign Ministry has asked the Iranian ambassador to Ankara to follow up the reports of the arrest in Istanbul of three Iranians for allegedly transacting enriched Uranium for import to Iran.

On the situation in Russia the spokesman said Iran hopes that the developments in that country would entail total peace and stability within the framework of national unity.

Commenting on the vote of the parliament of Europe against Iran he said the said body is not considered as an effective organ in European forums, and pointed out that Claude Chausson the French representative who is known for his widest anti-Islam activities is trying to work more actively in the interest of Zionism.

On the situation in Somalia, he said the developments in that country has placed the United Nations on the horns of a dilemma which warrants that the world body do its role as a protector of peace.

According to Sarmadi the Somali are now paying for damages of a purely private challenge between the person of General Farah Aidid and U.S. President Bill Clinton against the reputation of the United Nations.

Asked to comment on the recent arrest in the Iranian waters of a number of Kuwaiti fishers he said five Kuwaiti trawls had entered the Iranian territorial waters which warranted their capture by the coast guards. He said all the 11 fishermen in those trawls had been set free, and expressed hope that Kuwaiti fishermen would not be tempted to engage in similar ventures in the future.

He also congratulated Geydar Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan for his election as the new president of that country.

President, Saudi King To Hold 'Historic Summit'

NC0610151493 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 6 (AFP)—Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Saudi King Fahd are to

hold a "historic" summit aimed at improving relations between the two Islamic states in the region, MP Jalal Sadatiyan told Wednesday's TEHRAN TIMES.

Sadatiyan told the English-language daily that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is due shortly in Riyadh to arrange the meeting.

Sadatiyan, a member of the parliament's Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, said Velayati could go to Riyadh on his way back from the 48th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, to discuss the "timing and venue" of the summit.

The Iranian foreign minister left Tuesday for South Korea for a three-day visit, aimed at discussing bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues.

"This historical event will have far-reaching impact on Tehran- Riyadh relations and regional issues," Sadatiyan said.

"If the two countries reach an understanding, they can play a vital role in the OIC and OPEC," he said referring to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The meeting between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd would be the first between the heads of the two countries since Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979.

The possibility of a Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Fahd summit was raised here last May but the issue was brushed aside after Saudi Arabia banned an anti-U.S. rally planned by Iranian pilgrims in Mecca.

Iran and Saudi Arabia broke ties in 1987 when hundreds of Iranian pilgrims were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during a similar demonstration.

Tehran and Riyadh restored ties in 1991, but efforts at normalising relations suffered a blow following the incident in Mecca last May.

Last week however, Hashemi-Rafsanjani unexpectedly contacted King Fahd by telephone to seek help in pushing through an accord on oil production and quotas at an OPEC conference in Geneva.

In an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES last week, Iranian Speaker of Parliament 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said Tehran was seeking dialogue with Riyadh to clear up differences between the two countries and help resolve Gulf disputes.

Further on Planned Visit

LD0610164693 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday quoted a Majles deputy as having said that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will meet to discuss bilateral and regional issues.

Majles Deputy from Hamedan and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Majles, Jalal Sa'adatiyan, said that such a meeting will have a "far reaching impact not only on Tehran-Riyadh relations but also over all regional issues."

He, however, declined to give further details of the meeting and where and when it will take place.

Sa'adatiyan also said that Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati may visit Riyadh on his way back from New York where he attended U.N. General Assembly. He said that the time and venue of the meeting of the two heads of state may be raised during Velayati's visit.

He also added that an Iraqi delegation is due in Tehran soon to discuss the issue of war prisoners and travel of Iranian pilgrims to holy shrines in Iraq.

Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Arrives in Tehran

LD0610124493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Shaykh Razaq 'Ali, speaker of the Bangladeshi parliament, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a parliamentary delegation to begin an official visit to our country. He was officially welcomed by Mr. Movahedi-Kermani, vice speaker of the Majles.

Upon arriving in Tehran, Razaq participated in an interview with our reporter and said that the aim of his visit was to expand the cordial and close parliamentary ties and economic relations between the two countries. He added: During this visit we will be seeking to gain some information about the performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's parliament, as well as her policies on economics and finance.

Movahedi-Kermani, in turn, referred to the common viewpoints that exist between the two countries in political and cultural fields. He also called for the deepening of parliamentary, political, economic, and cultural cooperation. He then referred to the present problems of world Muslims and reminded Islamic countries about their responsibilities toward these problems. Furthermore, he stressed the need for Islamic countries to coordinate their efforts and programs in order to safeguard and strengthen Islamic values.

Speaker Hails Iran's 'Democracy'

LD0610192193 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh, Sheikh 'Ali Razzaq [name as received], told Iran's Majles (parliament) speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, here Wednesday that Islamic Iran is one of the most progressive nations due to the democracy that dominates the statehood in the country.

Nateq-Nuri responded by saying that Islam is the most important cultural element between the peoples of Iran and Bangladesh on the basis of which the two nations could broaden their relations, and also align their stance towards global issues.

Referring to the last month accord between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Zionist regime he said that among other concession the accord recognizes the Zionist regime without offering anything to the Palestinians.

He deplored the "good view" given to the accord by many Muslim governments saying in a not too distant future the veracity of Iran's stand to the accord would become universal knowledge.

The Majles speaker referred to the problems plaguing Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and commented that by relying on their resources and their power, the Muslim nations of the world can generate awe in the supercilious powers of the world.

Razzaq arrived in Tehran for a four day visit Wednesday at the head of a delegation.

Statement on PL0-Israel Accord Criticized

NC0710105793 Tehran SALAM in Persian 26 Sep 93 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "A Clear and Firm Stance"]

[Text] Iran's foreign policy has an international reputation for being frank and firm. There is hardly any country in the Third World that can declare its stances based on its recognized principles and aspirations with such boldness, rather than basing such decisions on short-term benefits and currying favor with this or that side.

We are now celebrating Holy Defense Week. Our nation remembers well that at the time when a change in our foreign policy stance on the aggression against and occupation of Afghanistan could have had an effect on eliciting the support of the Russians and on equipping Iraq militarily, the Islamic revolution of Iran continued to support the oppressed people of Afghanistan.

If we look back a little further in history, it is clear that the Islamic revolution of Iran was not prepared to pay any ransom to either side of the power balances at that time, at home or abroad, merely for the sake of attaining victory.

The secret of our independence is our reliance on the people, which has endowed a distinctive strength and firmness to our revolution and stances. Even our real enemy, the United States, has abandoned its ancient ploy of attributing the revolution to a Russian conspiracy.

Following the victory of our revolution, his eminence the imam (may his soul be sanctified) was not prepared to postpone or amend the struggle and confrontation with the United States for the nebulous and chimerical benefits that some of our politicians advocated. The revolution adopted a very overt stance on Arab reactionaries, the Palestinian issue, the need to destroy Israel, the defense of the oppressed, and combating Western political-economic domination. It also declared its defense of the tyrannized Muslims throughout the world under all circumstances as its binding obligation.

It is obvious that this could only be possible with the unprecedented selflessness and steadfastness of the people and with divine succor. The Holy Defense Week that we are celebrating commemorates the eight years of our fortitude in safeguarding our independent and principled stance in the face of the onslaught from the East and the West.

In the past few weeks, when the Gaza-Jericho accord—an act of treachery on the part of the PLO—was announced, our great leader and the other high-level officials in the country overtly and with complete clarity declared their stance toward the treacherous accord. When the entire Western and Zionist camp was seeking the concurrence of the reactionary and obsequious Arab governments, our consistent revolutionary stance stressing the Islamic bias of the Palestinian issue played a prominent role in unifying the devout and revolutionary forces and instilling them with hope for the future.

In such circumstances, what is implied by remarks such as "Iran does not intend to take any action against the PLO-Israeli accord and will not intervene in this issue!" What does this mean? Who are those to whom this statement is addressed and what will they deduce from it?

Unfortunately, when some officials move away from general forums, such as the Friday prayers or gatherings of the basijis [mobilization forces] and announce their stances, they distance themselves from the clear and firm stance that is expected of them. It is obvious that when we make statements such as "Iran and Saudi Arabia are the two wings of the Islamic world," we reap benefits in our relations with the littoral Persian Gulf states, especially as regards our Disavowal of the Polytheists ceremonies, Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, and reduction of American forces in the region. As a result of this statement about not taking any action regarding the accord, some benefits should come to us through the defusing of the West's hostility and sensitivity toward Iran's stance on the Palestinian issue.

The Gaza-Jericho accord is a black turning point in the struggle of the Palestinian people and those who want Islamic Iran to liberate Jerusalem from the clutches of Zionism and are awaiting the announcement of a clear and firm stand.

Unfortunately, we observe that the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not expressed an appropriate and noteworthy reaction on the signing of the accord. In truth, what was the obstacle in the path of the Foreign Ministry issuing an official statement against the shameful PLO-Tel Aviv accord?!

Velayati Arrives in Seoul 6 Oct

LD0610182493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Seoul, capital of South Korea, this afternoon on an official visit at the invitation of his Korean counterpart Mr. Han Sung-chu.

In an interview at Seoul airport, Mr. Velayati said that Iranian relations with South Korea were good. He hoped that during his stay in Seoul he will have constructive talks in his meetings with high ranking officials of that country.

Majles Deputies View Issues Facing Finance Minister

LD0610125793 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—Several Majles deputies, interviewed by IRNA today prior to Majles vote for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Morteza Mohammadkhan, confirmed government's economic policies and said production units should become more active and investment should be encouraged in order to solve economic problems.

Chairman of the plan and budget commission of Majles Qorbanali Dori-Najafabadi [name as received], pointed to inflation, unemployment, economic adjustment-related issues and floating exchange rates as current economic problems facing the country.

He called for investment in production areas and further participation of people in production activities and said the ratio of 16 percent for investment in proportion to gross national product (GNP) is very low.

Commenting on economic policies of Morteza Mohammadkhan, he said that creating jobs, encouraging investments, fostering production activities, reducing excess government expenditures, improvement of banking system and encouraging people to take part in economic activities were positive points of the program.

Also speaking was head of the Economy and Financial Affairs Commission of the Majles Hoseyn Hoseyni Shahrudi who said unchecked inflation, difficulties production, problem of liquidity, improper employment of the existing potentials were major economic problems of the country.

Another Majles deputy who commented in this connection was head of the councils and domestic affairs commission of the Majles 'Ali Movahedi Savoji who referred to high costs, shortage of liquidity, low foreign exchange revenues and irregular imports as other economic problems.

Underlining proper implementation of second development plan to eliminate economic problems, he said that to change a minister would not entail infrastuctural and major changes in programs of economic system.

He pointed to stable prices, control over imports, encouraging investment in production sector, further participation of private sector in the field of production as positive points of Mohammad Khan's program.

Majles deputy for Babolsar and second vice-chairman of the plan and budget commission, Mohammad Majdara said that economic problems of the country stemmed from improper management and incorrect employment of sources of revenue.

He said the country gained huge revenues in foreign exchange and therefore had no problem with respect to timely payment of foreign loans. The only problem was in the management of the payments, he said.

As for Mohammadkhan's program, he mentioned employment of active and devoted manpower, social justice, support for vulnerable classes of society and creation of job as positive points in his plan.

Rise in Non-Oil Exports Reported for Mar-Sep

LD0610174493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Between the beginning of Farvardin until the end of Shahrivar this year [period between 21 March and 22 September 1993], the country's nonoil exports reached a total of 3 million tonnes, to a value of 170 billion rials.

Compared to the same period last year, the country's nonoil exports registered an increase of 94 percent in terms of weight and 36 percent in terms of value. According to statistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs, during the first half of the current year [21 March-22 September] the value in dollars of Iran's nonoil exports amounted to $1.677 billion. Carpets, steel products, and pistachio nuts—the top three export items—accounted for 38 percent, 15 percent, and 8 percent respectively of total foreign exchange earnings from nonoil exports.

Nepal

Bhutanese Delegation Arrives To Discuss Refugees

BK0410150093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 4 (AFP)—A three-member Bhutanese ministerial delegation led by its home minister arrived here Monday for talks with Nepalese officials to sort out the Bhutanese refugee problem in Nepal, official sources said.

The talks between Bhutanese Home Minister Dago Tsering [name and title as received] and his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deupa, are scheduled for

Tuesday. "I am hopeful of finding a mutually acceptable, quick and lasting solution at the meeting," Tsering told newsmen at the airport.

More than 100,000 Bhutanese of Nepalese descent have fled Bhutan fearing alleged intimidation from the government and are taking shelter in eight camps in the southeastern Jhapa and Morang districts of Nepal. The camps are supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other non-governmental organizations. Bhutan has claimed that the refugees heading to Nepal were not Bhutanese but Indians.

Tshering met with Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala soon after arrival.

Ministerial Level Talks Begin

BK0510142693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 5 (AFP)—The home ministers of Nepal and Bhutan held talks here Tuesday aimed at settling a refugee crisis involving more than 100,000 people from Bhutan who have taken shelter in Nepal, a Nepalese home ministry official said.

Most of the refugees are Bhutanese of Nepalese descent who have fled their homeland fearing intimidation from an alleged cultural crackdown and taken refuge in eight camps in the southeastern Jhapa and Morang districts of Nepal. But some of the refugees are non-Bhutanese and in a bid to check their influx into Nepal the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has set up a screening camp in Jhapa district.

Bhutan insists that all those who have taken refuge in Nepal are Indians, not Bhutanese. The aim of Tuesday's ministerial-level talks is to find ways to categorise the refugees.

The Joint Nepal-Bhutan Committee was formed last July during Nepalese Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa's visit to Thimpu for talks on the problem, the Nepalese official said.

Bhutanese Home Minister Dago Tsering [name and title as received] arrived here Monday heading a three-member Bhutanese ministerial delegation.

The leader of Nepal's major political opposition Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) Mana Mohan Adhikari was also present at Tuesday's talks, the official added.

King Receives Bhutanese Minister

BK0610154193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1529 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 6 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal received in audience Wednesday visiting Bhutanese Home Minister at Narayanhity Royal Palace, state radio said. Nepal's Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa was also present.

Bhutan's Home Minister Dago Tsering is currently holding official talks with his Nepalese counterpart regarding the earliest repatriation of 100,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese descent sheltered in far southeastern Nepal.

The two home ministers held two rounds of talks on Tuesday and Wednesday to find out solution to the Bhutanese problem, a senior official of the Foreign Ministry said. Two rounds of talks were held Wednesday focusing on all issues concerning the refugees but no final decision has been made on any matter," the official said. He said the last round of talks will be held early Thursday.

Referring to the outcome of the Bhutan-Nepal ministerial talks held here on the refugee issue, Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told reporters: "The talks are moving in the right direction and I am highly hopeful of finding solutions to the problem." He said a technical team must be constituted to categorize the refugees currently taking shelter in Jhapa and Sunsari districts, 390 kilometres (240 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, and find ways for their repatriation.

Koirala is to leave Kathmandu on Friday for New York where he will head a Nepalese delegation to the U.N. General Assembly.

Exports of Major Commodities Up by 37 Percent

BK0510112193 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 28 Sep 93 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept. 27 (RSS)—The overall Nepalese trade showed a positive trend during the first six months of Fiscal Year 1992-93. Exports of major commodities increased by 37 per cent while imports grew by 7 percent.

According to the Trade Promotion Center, Nepal exported 1,579,680 square metres of carpets worth Rs. [rupees] 4,809.7 million from July 1992 to January 1993. Exports of carpets during the same period in 1991-92 stood at Rs. 3,204.3 million. Likewise, the exports of readymade garments marked an increase to Rs. 1,483.3 million as against Rs. 1,141.7 million during the same period last year. Exports of carpets and readymade garments during 1990-91 earned Rs. 3,701.9 million and Rs. 1,343.5 million. These figures rose substantially to Rs. 7,130.9 million and Rs. 3,112 million during 1991-92.

Nepal has a list of 14 major overseas exportables. These include goat skin, hides, niger seeds, pulses and handicrafts. But these products have not been able to find a substantial place in the overseas market.

SAARC Trading Arrangement Ratified

BK2909053693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0508 GMT 29 Sep 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 29 (AFP)—Nepal has become the first country to ratify the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's [SAARC] preferential trading arrangement, state-run radio said Wednesday.

The instrument of ratification was signed by Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and received by SAARC secretary-general I.H. Zaki on Tuesday, it said. SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

During the seventh summit in Dhaka this year, SAARC's council of ministers had urged member states to complete all formalities to operate the trade arrangement and finalise the ratification process before December 1995. Member states were also requested to start the process of negotiating trade concessions. The trade accord will come into force when all seven states complete ratification.

Pakistan

Latest National Assembly Election Results Noted

'Slight' PPP Edge Over PML-N Seen

BK0710045693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0430 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] More than three-fourths of the National Assembly election results have been received thus far. According to the latest tally, the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has a slight edge over its main rival party—the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz [PML-N] group. According to the results of the 175 seats from the 202 constituencies declared thus far, the PPP has won 75 seats, while the PML-N has bagged 64 seats. Party leaders, including Benazir Bhutto, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Nawabzada Nasarullah Khan, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Hamid Nasir Chatha, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, and Mahmud Khan Achakzai, have been declared elected.

The prominent personalities who have lost the elections include Awami National Party [ANP] Chief Mohammad Ajmal Khattak; another leader of the ANP, Ghulam Ahmad Billour; PPP leaders Aitzaz Ahsan, Salman Taseer, Ehsanul Haq Piracha, and Jahagir Badar; Ghaus Ali Shah of the PML-N; and Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan.

Among the cabinet colleagues of former Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif who have suffered defeat in the elections are Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor, Syed Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi, Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo [the former minister of state for foreign affairs], and Elahi Bux Sumroo.

Islamic Party Chief Losing

BK0710070793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0630 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Nawab Mohammad Ayaz Khan Jogezai of the Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party has won election from the NA [National Assembly]-200 Zhob (Qila) Saifullah constituency. The results of only 12 constituencies remain to be received and according to the latest party position, the two major parties—Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz [PML-N] group are running neck and neck. According to the results declared so far, the latest party position is as follows: Pakistan People's Party 83, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group 69, and other parties, including the independents, 38.

PML-N group President Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, who has been contesting elections from three constituencies, has been declared elected from two constituencies. Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, the chairperson and cochairperson respectively of the PPP, have been declared elected from Larkana. [passage omitted]

Former ministers of the Nawaz Sharif's cabinet, who have won elections, include Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Ejazul Haq, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, and Ghulam Dastagir Khan, and Malik Mohammad Naim Khan.

Contrary to the expectations, Qazi Hussain Ahmad of the Pakistan Islamic Front, who had been contesting elections from three constituencies, has been defeated in two constituencies, with the election in the third constituency being postponed.

Percentages of Province Votes Listed

BK0710105493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Pir Syed Abdul Qadir Shah, the Pakistan People's Party candidate from NA-170 Khairpur, Sukkur, has been officially elected. Out of 202 National Assembly seats, 197 results have been announced so far.

According to our Computer and Tabulation Cell, the latest position of the two major political parties is as follows: Pakistan People's Party 86; and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group 71. Other political parties, including the independent candidates, have won 40 seats. The results for four seats have yet to come in; three of these are in the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] and one is in Balochistan. The result for National Assembly constituency NA-13 in Abbottabad, Haripur, has been withheld.

The results for all 112 seats in Punjab have been announced. The party positions in Punjab are as follows: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, 52; Pakistan People's Party, 47; Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, 6; and other parties, including independent candidates, 7.

The results for all 46 [number as heard] seats in Sindh have been announced. The Pakistan People's Party has won 34; Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group, 10; Pakistan Islamic Front, one; National People's Party, one; and one independent candidate was elected.

In NWFP, the results for 21 constituencies have been announced. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group has 8; Pakistan People's Party, 5; Pakistan Islamic Front, 2; Islami Jamhoori Mahaz, 2; Awami National Party, 3; and Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, 1.

The results for 10 seats have been received from Balochistan. The Pakistan People's Party and Islami Jamhoori Mahaz have won one seat each. The Jamhoori Watan Party has won two seats; the Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party has won three; and the Balochistan National Movement-Mengal Group and Balochistan National Movement-Hai Group have won one seat each. One independent candidate was also elected.

The results for the seats in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas have been announced. They were all won by independent candidates. Polling in one seat has been postponed.

The lone seat in the federal capital of Islamabad has been won by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group.

According to our Computer and Tabulation Cell, the percentage of votes cast in the provinces is as follows: Punjab, more than 40 percent; Sind, 27.45 percent; NWFP, 34.56 percent; Balochistan, 23.96 percent; FATA, 61.86 percent; and Federal Capital Region, 57.69 percent.

The Election Commission secretary has just said that the announcement of election results has been completed. The results in the four remaining seats will be announced as soon as they are available.

Bhutto, Sharif 'Neck and Neck'

BK0710030493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] In Pakistan, with more than half of the results of the National Assembly elections having come in, indications are that the two leading contenders—the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League [PML] led by Mr. Nawaz Sharif—are running neck and neck with the PPP having a slight edge. Of the 151 results having been announced a short while ago, the PPP has secured 64 seats, while the PML-Nawaz group has won 57 seats. The PML-Nawaz allies have won two seats. AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad's correspondent Suresh Chopra reports if the present trend continues, then a hung parliament is a distinct possibility. The final picture will become clear by noon today.

Our correspondent adds that both Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Mr. Nawaz Sharif have won their seats in Larkana in the Sind Province with huge margins. The former prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has also won his seat.

In Punjab, from the results declared so far, it is apparent that Mr. Nawaz Sharif continues to exercise his earlier hold on the province. Most of his party candidates have swept the Lahore seats, defeating some PPP stalwarts like Mr. Salman Taseer and Jahangir Badar. The brother of Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Mir Murtaza Bhutto, who is in exile in Damascus, has not been able to win any seat.

Bhutto Issues Victory Statement

BK0710063493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Naudedo, Pakistan, Oct 7 (AFP)—Former premier Benazir Bhutto said Thursday her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had emerged "a clear winner" in National Assembly elections.

Bhutto was speaking to journalists in her home district in southern Sindh Province as official results gave her a 13-seat lead in the 117-seat assembly over her rival, Nawaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League, with only 10 seats left to be counted after Wednesday's poll.

"I am grateful to the nation for the confidence they have reposed in the PPP," she said. "The results are mostly in. When one keeps in mind the overall picture, it is clear that the PPP has emerged as a clear winner," she said.

Bhutto said her party was "surprised by the margin, which we did not expect."

But while calling her victory "decisive", the 40-year-old former premier, who on polling day had charged there had been rigging through doctored voting lists, refused to discuss whether she considered the elections had been free and fair.

Nor would she comment on details of the results, but called on the Election Commission to ensure that electoral lists for provincial assembly polls, to be held Saturday, were not tampered with.

After congratulating her allies on their victories, she called on her elected MP's to "stay in their constituencies for the provincial elections."

There was no immediate statement from Nawaz Sharif, who had earlier predicted his PML would take two-thirds of the vote in the election.

Islamic Front Chief Accepts Results

BK0710083693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0805 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the chief of the Pakistan Islamic Front [PIF], has said the PIF accepts the election results wholeheartedly. In a statement in Lahore, he said the people have expressed their view and now it is the responsibility of the majority party to find a solution to the internal and external problems facing the country and fulfill the promises it made during the election campaign.

Sharif Concedes Defeat

BK0710091393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Oct 7 (AFP)—Former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif's party said Thursday it accepted official election results showing that its rival, Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), had emerged as leader in Wednesday's vote.

"We have already said that whatever the result is, we will accept it," Sharif's spokesman, Shahid Ahmed, said, as late morning Election Commission figures showed his Pakistan Muslim League (PML) trailing by a decisive 14 seats in the 217-seat house.

There was no immediate statement from Sharif, who spent the polling day in Lahore, his hometown, where he won two of the three seats he contested.

Ahmed said the PML would later issue a statement about Bhutto's charge that the polls had been rigged by bought identity cards and tampered electoral lists.

The PML by midday had won 71 to the PPP's 85 out of the 195 seats counted in a close race that appeared sure to ensure a weak government and a strong opposition.

PPP Secures 86 Seats

BK0710135693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1300 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Unofficial results of the election for 201 seats of the National Assembly have been announced. The Pakistan People's Party has secured 86 seats and emerged as the biggest majority party. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Sharif Group has secured the second place by winning 72 seats. Independent candidates have succeeded in 15 constituencies. The position of other parties is as follows: Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, six; Islami Jamhoori Mahaz, four; Pakistan Islamic Front, three; Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party, three; Awami National Party, three; Muttaheda Deeni Mahaz, two; and Jamhoori Watan Party, two. Pakhtoonkhwa Qaumi Party, National People's Party, National Democratic Alliance, Balochistan National Movement-Mengal Group, and Balochistan National Movement- Hai Group have won one seat each. [passage omitted]

Ordinance Issued on 'Floor-Crossing' by Legislators

BK0710023293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Oct 93

[Text] Acting President Wasim Sajjad has promulgated an ordinance to check floor-crossing [preceding two words in English, changing party affiliations] by the members of the parliament. Addressing a news conference last night, he said the ordinance will strengthen democratic institutions. The ordinance will remain effective for four months, and the parliament will be empowered to approve or amend it.

Sri Lanka

Expatriates' Remittances Record Sharp Rise

BK0310120093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign exchange remittances from Sri Lankans overseas have shown a dramatic increase in recent years. The rise in the number of Sri Lankans going overseas for employment and policy changes in Sri Lanka during the recent past towards liberalization of economy have contributed to this increase. The total remittances from Sri Lankans abroad exceeded 23,810 million rupees last year, out of which 56.8 percent came from Sri Lankans employed in the Middle East. The prevailing high domestic interest rates have also encouraged Sri Lankans overseas to remit their savings to rupee account on which the interest rates are much higher than those available for convertible currency. Inflows of private transfers was second only to earnings from textile and garment exports and accounted for 60 percent more than export earnings from tea last year. Mrs. Anila Dais Bandaranaike of the economic research department of Central Bank says foreign exchange earnings remitted by Sri Lankan workers overseas appear to have had a positive impact on the country's economy.

Exports of Industrial Goods Rise by 37 Percent

BK0110114793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Oct 93

[Text] Sri Lanka exported industrial goods to the value of 75,776 million rupees last year. The exports indicate an increase of over 25,000 million rupees or 37 percent when compared to the performance in the previous year. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the increase in textile and garment exports was the major contributory factor for the growth in industrial exports. The export of these items rose by 45 percent. Meanwhile, the aggregate earnings of other industrial products including diamonds, food, beverages, and tobacco, chemical products, as well as leather and rubber goods also increased substantially to record a 32 percent growth.

Clothing Exports Yield Over 27 Billion Rupees

BK0610115493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Sri Lanka earned 27.4 billion rupees from apparel export during the first half of this year. USA purchases 64 percent, Germany - 11, and Britain - 9 percent. The export secretariat said Sri Lanka has one of the most developed and diverse apparel industries in the whole of South Asia. It is already established as a source of a wide range of high quality garments for some of the biggest buyers in the USA, Europe, and the Far East. Export of apparels increased from $10 million in 1977 to over $1 billion last year. The value of apparel exports accounted for 43 percent of Sri Lanka's total exports last year. At present, there are over 500 factories directly engaged in the production of garments for export providing employment to over 500,000 persons.

CIS, Jordan, Iran Main Buyers of Tea

BK0210122493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Text] Commonwealth of Independent States are still leading as the main buyers of Sri Lanka tea. These countries purchased 20.6 million kg of tea during the first seven months of this year. Although these nations had purchased more quantities in the first few months of the year, in the second quarter there was a decline in the purchases. However, tea trade circles expect the situation to improve within the next few months.

Most of these countries import tea in the form of packets. This brings a profit of around 12 rupees from a kilo of tea. Eighty- three percent of the total quantity purchased this year had been packeted.

Jordan is the second highest purchaser. It has bought 12.7 million kilo grams. Iran had also purchased a large quantity during the period under review. Other leading buyers are the United Arab Emirates, Syria, and the United Kingdom.

1994 Government Budget Expenses Detailed

BK0610114693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The government estimates a sum of 133,170 million rupees for expenditure on services during the financial year commencing from next January. It hopes to raise 59,987 million rupees from local and foreign loans. An Appropriation Act to provide for the services of the financial year 1994 to authorize the raising of loans in or outside Sri Lanka has now been gazetted. The defense bill for 1994 is 20,450 million rupees. Service expenditure for the Ministry of Home Affairs and provincial councils will be in the region of 15,460 million rupees. The Finance Ministry allocation is 12,830 million rupees. The expenditure for public services is 10,300 million rupees. The other highest financial allocations have been made for the Ministries of Education, Housing and Construction, Transport and Highways, Agriculture Development and Research, Health, Posts and Telecommunications, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Social Welfare, Janasaviya [welfare] and Public Administration.

LTTE Plan To Kill Indian Politician Revealed

BK0310092493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 3 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas planned to assassinate Indian politician Muthuvel Karunanidhi to help a rival take over the leadership of his party, Karunanidhi said Sunday.

Tamil Nadu state authorities told him the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) wanted to "eliminate" him in order to promote the interests of V. Gopalasamy, a fellow Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) member of parliament, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Karunanidhi as saying in Madras.

Tamil Nadu state authorities advised him to take extra security precautions, he told reporters.

Karunanidhi refused comment on the alleged threat, the Press Trust of India said, adding he would discuss it with party colleagues. Karunanidhi was once a vocal supporter of the LTTE's campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka but stopped speaking in favour of the rebels after they were accused of assassinating former premier Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991.

Gopalasamy, a Karunanidhi rival who commands wide support in the DMK, is an ardent supporter of the LTTE's campaign and made an illegal trip in 1989 to Sri Lanka's north to meet LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

Security Forces Capture Key LTTE Crossing

BK0410122993 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] The Sri Lankan security forces have inflicted a crippling blow to the terrorists with the capture of Kilali, the point close to Elephant Pass, used by the Tigers for lagoon crossings to the mainland. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] yesterday was rather quiet, reports from the front line said. Operation Yaldevi enters its seventh day today with troops consolidating in the Kilali area which fell to the security forces on Saturday. This was an unexpected yet (?some) targets which has now broken the Tiger crossings from the mainland across the Jaffna lagoon. [sentence as heard] It is no wonder we met so much resistance. The Tigers did not want to us to reach Kilali. Taking over Kilali was not part of our plan. Our aim was to drive them out and annihilate them and that has now been achieved at great cost. One senior military officer commented on the operation so far. But it is better to hold on to it or to withdraw from it, he said. [sentence as heard] He explained that with the onset of the monsoons, the Kilali area would soon become a bog and living conditions for the troops would be miserable. We shall need about three or four battalions to keep Kilali and to (?hold down) that many men. Therefore, an indefinite period would not be worthwhile when they could be more profitably used elsewhere, he added.

800 LTTE Rebels Killed in Government Offensive

BK0510121693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Operation Yaldevi, the biggest recent offensive of the security forces against LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists has been completed. Brigadier Nalin Angammana of the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense said the Army destroyed all facilities used by the terrorists at the Kilali boat landing point. The security forces killed about 800 LTTE terrorists in their six-day offensive. The security forces commenced their retreat and returned to the original defense line with negligible resistance from the terrorists. Two boats were destroyed [words indistinct]. Another 450 boats were recovered.